

# POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

40p

24-30 May 1984 Vol 3 No 21

New weekly QL page

BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING MICRO WEEKLY

CLASSIFIEDS  
START  
HERE

VALHALLA

GLUG  
GLUG

TITANIC

GIVE YOUR BBC MICRO SOME STICK!  
Allows you to use joysticks with most programs.

- ★ Simple to use.
- ★ Requires just one block of memory space.

An invaluable program — easy for beginners, scope for the experienced. Joystick utility — £5 inc (Disc-compatible) cheques to:

CLARES MICRO SUPPLIES  
Dept. PCW, 98 Middlewich Road  
Northwich, Cheshire  
Tel: (06064) 8511

Computer Swap  
01-437 4343

Free readers entries to buy or sell a computer.  
Ring 01-437 4343 and give us the details.

SHARP MZ 80K 48K plus Quantum Hi-Res graphics. Large quantity of software plus manuals, books and listings. Ex. cond, quick sale preferred, any offer considered above. £250. 01-889 1090.

TI 994A COMPUTER and manual for sale. £55 ono. Tel: 01-472 3791.

★ **STAR** ★  
Fruity on  
Commodore 64  
See page 10  
**GAME** ★

## News Desk

### Music for your ears

CASIO has produced an interface to allow its Casiotone MT-200 electronic music keyboard to be connected to micros.

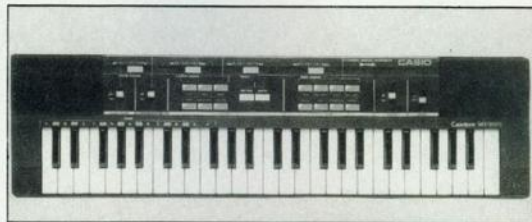
The Casio Interface PA-1 will connect the keyboard to any computer which has either a Centronics interface built-in — or can be connected to one.

The MT-200 is a 49-key four-octave unit which costs £129. It has eight pre-set voice types — piano, clarinet, strings, etc — and six rhythms.

Using the interface unit any micro — such as the Spectrum with a Centronics interface — can be used to store and play notes to the keyboard.

The keyboard is instructed from Basic with the sequence of notes to be played stored in the form of a Basic string.

continued on page 5



## MSX invasion plans go ahead

PLANS for the invasion of the Japanese MSX computer are now sufficiently far advanced that the system has been formally unveiled to the press.

All of the major Japanese electronics companies have joined forces to produce micros with broadly the same hardware which will all run the same software — the so-called MSX design standard. Each of the machines uses a Z80 processor with a 32K ROM including Microsoft Basic and at least 8K RAM. All use the same TI video chip giving a 40 x 24 text display (256 x 192 graphics resolution) with 16 colours available. All use the same GI three-channel sound chip. Where a disc unit is available as an option it is Microsoft MS-DOS compatible.

MSX machines have been on sale in Japan since last October and the first MSX micros to appear in this country will go on sale at a "competitive price" in the early Autumn.

Micros from eight Japanese manufacturers — Sony, Sanyo, Toshiba, Teleton, JVC, Mitsubishi, Hitachi and Canon — are expected to be in the shops by Christmas, backed by retail chains like Boots and Laskeys. Two other manufacturers, Yamaha and National Panasonic — both which have been successful with MSX in Japan — have still to decide whether to tackle the UK market.

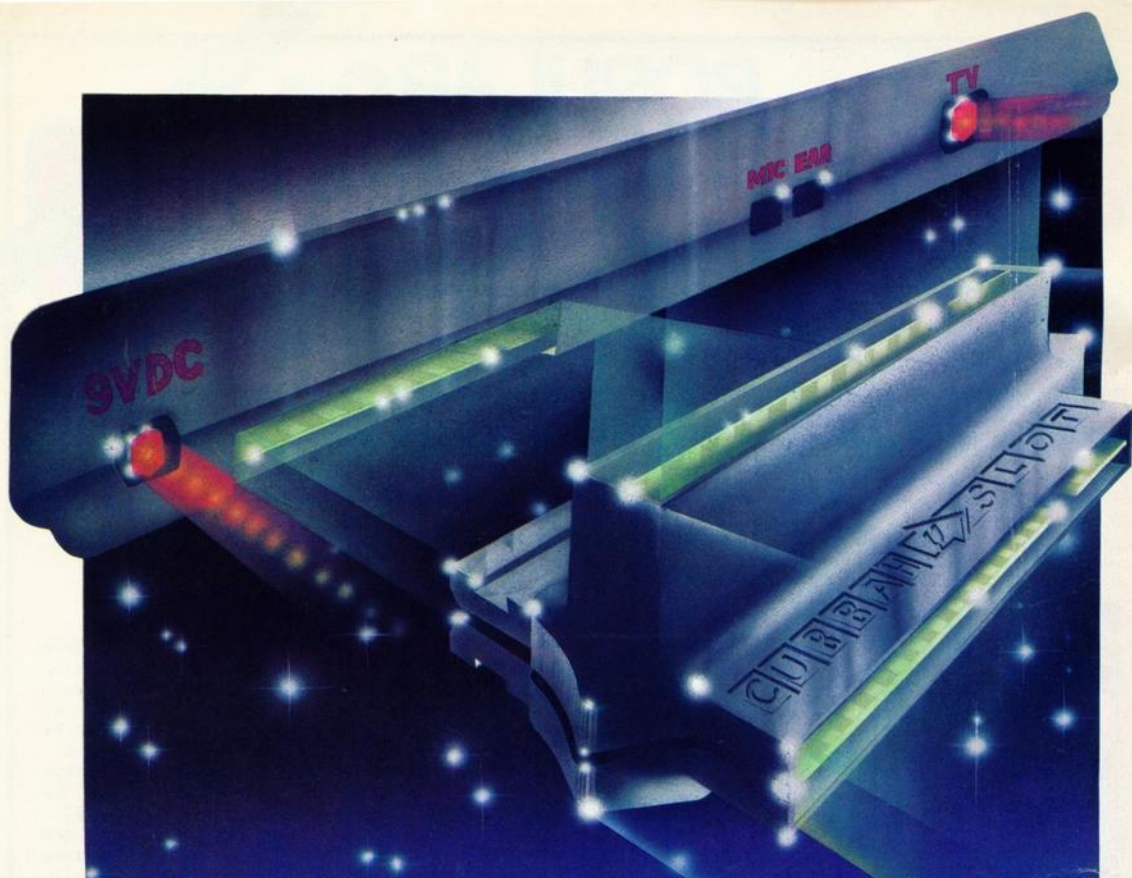
By the time the first machines go on sale in September, several hundred British software packages will have been written for MSX. Over ninety per cent of the material will be games software. Among the companies writing for MSX are: Psion, Quicksilver, Virgin, Melbourne House, Thorn EMI, Silversoft and Hewson. Other companies which have shown interest in

continued on page 5 ▶

## This Week

- **Special Feature** Ray Berry looks at the history of the micro-processor on page 12.
- **Networking** David Lawrence surveys the equipment needed to get going. See page 19.
- **Spectrum** M Sheffield presents a pixel by pixel movement program on page 22.
- **QL** An introductory guide for owners — and aspiring owners — by John Cochrane on page 28.
- **New Releases** This week's software includes Sheep in Space from Llamasoft and Contract Bridge from Touchstone, Page 52.





Moving up now to dock with the user port

**CURRAH** **μSLOT**

**Expandable Motherboard System for ZX Spectrum**

Have you ever plugged a brand new peripheral into your Spectrum and then found you couldn't plug anything else in?

The CURRAH μSLOT will help you solve your problems.

Now you can connect your CURRAH μ SPEECH, your printer connector, your ZX Interface 2 or other accessories into either of the available slots — you can even add μSLOTS together to expand your system further! And naturally, μSLOT can be used on the back of Interface 1.

Even if you only have one peripheral for your computer, μSLOT will protect your Spectrum's edge connector from wear and tear.

Moulded in black plastic, μSLOT is styled to complement your Spectrum and its accessories. It comes in its own distinctive packaging, complete with full instructions for use.

Once again CURRAH design brings you the best in computer add-ons at a truly competitive price — £14.95 inc. VAT. Look out for μSLOT as it becomes available in retail outlets nationwide — or use the order form below.

To: MicroSlot Offer, P.O. Box 1, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE8 1AJ

Please Supply ..... μ SLOT unit(s) at £14.95 each incl. VAT

Name (please print) .....

Address (please print) .....

Postcode .....

I enclose a cheque/PO payable to 'MicroSlot Offer' value £ .....

or debit my Access/BarclayCard No.

Signed (credit card orders not accepted unless signed) .....

Please allow 28 days for delivery

Offer valid UK only



## The Team

**Editor**  
Brendon Gore

**News Editor**  
David Kelly

**Reporter**  
Christina Erskine

**Software Editor**  
Graham Taylor

**Production Editor**  
Lynne Constable

**Editorial Secretary**  
Cleo Cherry

**Advertisement Manager**  
David Lake

**Assistant Advertisement Manager**  
Alastair Macintosh

**Advertisement Executive**  
Tom Watson

**Classified Executive**  
Diane Davis

**Advertising Production**  
Lucinda Lee

**Administration**  
Theresa Lacy

**Managing Editor**  
Duncan Scot

**Publishing Director**  
Jenny Ireland

*Popular Computing Weekly*,  
12-13 Little Newport Street,  
London WC2R 3LD  
Telephone: 01-437 4343  
Telex: 296275

Published by Sunshine Publications Ltd.



Registered at  
the Post Office  
as a newspaper

MEMBER OF THE AUDIT  
BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

ISSN 0265-0509  
Typeset by The Artwork Group,  
55-63 Goswell Road, London EC1,  
in association with Ink on Paper Ltd.  
Printed by East Midland Litho Printers  
Ltd, Oundle Road, Woodston,  
Peterborough PE2 9QR.

Distributed by S M Distribution  
London SW9. 01-274 8611. Telex: 261643  
© Sunshine Publications Ltd 1984

### How to submit articles

Articles which are submitted for publication should not be more than 3,000 words long. The articles, and any accompanying programs, should be original. It is breaking the law of copyright to copy programs out of other magazines and submit them here — so please do not be tempted.

### Accuracy

*Popular Computing Weekly* cannot accept any responsibility for any errors in programs we publish, although we will always try our best to make sure programs work.

## This Week

<b>News</b>	5
Casio	
<b>Letters</b>	7
Copyright	
<b>Star Game</b>	10
Fruity for Commodore 64 by Lee Tanner	
<b>Special Feature</b>	
Microprocessors by Ray Berry	
<b>Reviews</b>	14
In-depth software analysis	
<b>Networking</b>	19
David Lawrence looks at the equipment needed to get started	
<b>Spectrum</b>	22
Pixel by pixel movement by M Sheffield	
<b>QL</b>	28
John Cochrane takes a user's-eye view of the QL	
<b>Commodore 64</b>	32
Resequencing text file by Adrian Warman	
<b>Open Forum</b>	35
Four pages of your programs	
<b>Microradio</b>	39
Ray Berry's column	
<b>Arcade Avenue</b>	40
Tony Kendle's arcade check-out	
<b>Adventure</b>	43
Tony Bridge's corner	
<b>Peek and Poke</b>	45
Your questions answered	
<b>New releases</b>	52
Latest software programs	
<b>This week</b>	54
Top 10 plus all this week's software	
<b>Competitions</b>	55
Ziggurat, Puzzle, Hackers	

## Editorial

Networking is becoming increasingly popular. More and more micro owners are buying modems and linking themselves up to a range of free bulletin boards and commercial systems such as Prestel and Micronet 800.

Admittedly, the overall number of home networkers is still relatively small, but the total is growing all the time.

But, while networking is a comparatively new phenomenon for home micro users, it is not new to business users. A range of companies including Reuters, Datastream and Telerate, have been providing electronic news and market report services for years.

Now Merrill Lynch, a New York securities company, has joined forces with IBM to launch International Market Net — a firm designed to challenge existing network information providers.

There are also increasing attempts to attract micro users to home banking schemes such as Homelink, while Commodore has set up Compunet, a pilot network which could rival Micronet. WH Smith plans to launch its own Games Network in early 1984 (see PCW 26 April — 2 May).

Printers and disc drives are the two peripherals most commonly bought once a user has set up a basic system of micro, tv and tape recorder. Modems may soon become the third most sought-after item.

## Next Thursday

Next week's star game is *Air Sea Battle* for 16/48K Spectrum by Gary Burrows — a strategy game in which you must protect your oil rigs.

## Subscribe to Popular Computing Weekly

I would like to subscribe to *Popular Computing Weekly*.

Please start my subscription from the ..... ISSUE.

UK Addresses: ☐ 26 issues at £9.98 ☐ 52 issues at £19.95

Overseas Addresses: ☐ 26 issues at £18.70 ☐ 52 issues at £37.40

Please tick relevant box


I enclose my cheque to *Popular Computing Weekly* for .....

Name .....

Address .....

Please send this form, and cheque, to *Popular Computing Weekly*, Subscription Dept., 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.





# IF ANDROID TWO MADE THE CRITICS RAVE, T.L.L. WILL GIVE THEM HYPERMANIA.

And why not?  
It has the finest graphics yet to emerge from  
a Spectrum game.

Fly the latest swing-wing fighter  
bomber, with full 360° control.

Seek out and destroy enemy targets.  
Land, refuel, take off at will.

With 3D multi-screen, multi-directional  
wraparound landscape, it's guaranteed to give  
your brain hypermania.

Fly Tornado Low Level today – just one in a  
series of mindblowing action games.



PLEASE RUSH ME

- |                                      |                  |              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> T.L.L.      | SPECTRUM 48K     | <b>£5.95</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANDROID TWO | SPECTRUM 48K     | <b>£5.95</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANDROID ONE | SPECTRUM 16K/48K | <b>£4.95</b> |

TOTAL VALUE **£**

Games suitable for keyboard and joystick

NAME

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

ADDRESS

Enclose PO/cheque payable to VORTEX SOFTWARE and send to  
VORTEX SOFTWARE, 280 BROOKLANDS ROAD, MANCHESTER M23 9HD.

DEALER ENQUIRIES • CALL 061 973 9580

• VORTEX ACTION GAMES • AVAILABLE FROM ALL LEADING RETAILERS •



## MSX

continued from page 1

MSX include Bug-byte, Bubble Bus, Kuma, Aligata, Micromega, Ocean and Ultimate.

The first MSX machines will



be previewed at the CETEX trade show at Earl's Court later this month.

The MSX standard is a controversial one. Several prominent software houses have expressed disappointment that the giant Japanese manufacturers have chosen to base their home computer standard on the now somewhat elderly Z80 processor. Commented Psion's David Potter at the MSX launch: "Any standard has advantages and disadvantages. MSX will provide a

common environment for software development and the consumer will benefit from the wide range of peripherals available for it.

"The disadvantage is that it could inhibit change. Innovation in the decade to come will be considerable and the ques-

tion remains whether the MSX is sufficiently and open-mindedly designed to allow it to become a standard for many years to come."

Microsoft Japan's Kay Nishi — the man who originally conceived the idea of the 8-bit MSX standard — admitted that no standard can last for ever. He said: "I don't deny that 16-bit is coming — but not this year, or in the next two years. Whatever happens, MSX will be upwardly compatible."

The micro can be used as a kind of sequencer building up note or rhythm patterns over which it is then possible to play a further melody using the Casio keyboard directly.

The PA-1 Centronics interface costs £29.50 and comes complete with a 48-page manual which includes a program listing for a Basic music editor.

## Sinclair car underway

SINCLAIR Vehicles — the company set up in February this year by Sir Clive Sinclair to produce a range of battery driven cars — has abandoned its option to buy the former deLorean car plant in Northern Ireland.

Development of the first product — a low-cost town runabout — is now at an advanced stage and preproduction is scheduled to commence

## Eight leave Commodore

EIGHT high level executives at Commodore International have left the company in the past three weeks and another 12 seem likely to go. Major staff changes were widely expected after Marshall Smith took over as president in January, after the surprise departure of Commodore's founder Jack Tramiel.

Commodore itself will not comment on whether the senior executives — four of them vice presidents — resigned or were fired.

The vice presidents who

have left are Bernhard Witter (finance), Greg Pratt (manufacturing and assembly), Taro Tokai (in charge of the Japan unit) and Lloyd Taylor (technology).

Also among those lost to the company are Jack Tramiel's son Sam, and John Feagans, director of software technology. The latter plans to start up a software company with another Tramiel son.

Marshall Smith commented that the departures were part of "internal restructuring" and that the organisation has been streamlined as a result.

## 3D adventure

CONTINUING its hallmark of 3D games, Hewson Consultants is presently working on a 3D adventure for the Spectrum.

The game will be entirely graphic with the main character, a wizard, being controlled and moved by use of a key-

## Hares and hounds

THOSE who didn't know where to look for the golden hare in Kit William's *Masquerade* will have another chance when the computer game *Hare Raiser* is brought out.

When it was first published, the book *Masquerade* sparked off a national treasure hunt — it contained cryptic clues to lead the readers to a buried prize of a jewelled hare ornament.

Now the treasure hunt winner, Ken Thomas, has sold the hare he won to Jeff Pennell, who in turn has set up the company Haresoft to promote a computer game based on a new quest.

"*Hare Raiser* will be an adventure puzzle, sold in two parts," said Jeff.

under licence at the Hoover plant in South Wales later this year.

Production prototypes have already been constructed and are under test. Sinclair Vehicles hopes to launch the town car in the UK in the first quarter of 1985.



Programmer Steve Turner

board or joystick. The only text input will be to enlist the aid of other characters who will then appear on the screen.

"The finished game should contain about 255 locations, with up to 250 objects to pick up along the way," said Hewson programmer Steve Turner.

The game, as yet untitled, has a target date for completion of September 1.

"The first part will be available at the end of June and the second twelve weeks later. Both parts of the puzzle will be needed to complete it."

The first person to send in a correct solution — the name of a secret location — plus two registration numbers that come the game will have a choice of either the hare or £25,000 as a prize.

*Hare Raiser* will initially be available by mail order on the expanded Vic 20, Commodore 64, Dragon 32 and 64, Atmos, Spectrum and BBC micros. An Amstrad version is expected later. Each part of the game will cost £8.95.

## Prism move

HAVING lost its exclusive right to distribute Sinclair products earlier in the year, Prism has now been appointed main distributor for Oric.

## Casio

continued from page 1

The string is then executed by the keyboard with an *LPrint* command.

From Basic it is possible to set the pitch, duration and voice of any note and control the type of rhythm played by the keyboard. It is also possible to transmit multi-voice data and mix and transpose tunes.

## Rallying round

ATARI is to convert its top-selling game *Pole Position* for the Spectrum, BBC and Commodore 64 computers.

The new titles should be available shortly and are priced at £14.99 for the Spectrum and BBC versions on cassette £24.99 for the Commodore 64 version on cartridge.



Gold plate contact keys are used,  
guaranteed life of 10<sup>6</sup> operations



Tough ABS case,  
225mm x 350mm x 65mm deep

It's easy to see why the FDS Keyboard is the best selling Spectrum keyboard in the world. This stylish, slim-line keyboard has been transforming Spectrums world-wide.  
The keyboard contains all the graphic characters of your ZX Spectrum, plus additional function keys. It has 4 cursor control keys, an auto rub-out key, a separate key for full stop and comma, a full length space bar, shift keys either side and 2 function keys for direct entry into green and red E modes.  
The FDS Keyboard has real individual contact switches and not a membrane like most other Spectrum keyboards on the market which are more expensive.  
The case is easily adapted to allow the microdrive to fit inside along with the power supply.  
Fixing is simplicity itself and no soldering or technical knowledge is required.

**£49.95**  
+ £2.50 p&p

Keyboard buffer available allows Spectrum to be connected without dismantling **£8.75 + 80p p&p**

# Transform your Spectrum now!



The Fuller Box can be bought separately for £29.95 and the Orator for £34.95 + 80p p&p

This is the ultimate games unit, containing not only the sound synthesiser from the Fuller Box but also the speech unit from the Fuller Orator.

It will probably be the only add-on you will need to buy after the Spectrum. We don't call this the Master Unit for nothing as it contains a Programmable Sound Generator, Joystick Controller, Beep Amplifier, Cassette Interface, Through Bus and 'Orator' Phoneme Voice Synthesiser plus a three-inch loud speaker and volume control.

Speech can be synthesised easily so that your micro can talk to you and play chords of music at the same time. Directly accessible in Basic it is able to say anything you command using the keyboard or a games program.

**£49.95**  
+ £2.50 p&p

The FD42 keyboard is still a firm favourite when it comes to a low cost option for your ZX81 or Spectrum. It is now a "standard" to Sinclair users. Neatly presented in an attractive ABS plastic case it transforms the Sinclair computer into a useful professional unit, providing all the graphic characters of the ZX81 or Spectrum, with additional keys to aid the user. No technical knowledge is required for installation.

**£29.95** + 80p p&p

**SOUNDAMP** - The SoundAmp. amplifies all the sound your Spectrum makes, it has a volume control and is easily fitted and comes in a sleek black box like the Master Unit to match your Spectrum.

**£9.95**  
80p p&p

**RS232 PRINTERFACE** - ROM based software.

Versatile printer interface. Comes complete with instructions and lead. **£34.95** 80p p&p

**CENTRONICS PRINTERFACE** - As above but for parallel printer with CENTRONICS input. Lead can be supplied at £7.95. Further details upon request. **£39.95** 80p p&p

**SOUNDSTICK** - Sound amplifier and Kempston compatible joystick interface **£19.95** 80p p&p



See us at  
**YOUR COMPUTER FAIR**  
June 14-17 on  
Stand 669

**Fuller** MICRO SYSTEMS

Fuller Micro Systems  
The ZX Centre, 71 Dale Street,  
Liverpool 2. Tel: 051-709 4666.

709 4666 - Mail Order  
709 9280 - Tele Sales  
709 9209 - Customer Services  
236 4612 - Retail Sales

Send large stamped addressed envelope for the free complete Fuller hardware range catalogue  
Kits available on most items - Prices on request

Please supply me with

I enclose a cheque payable to Fuller Micro Systems for £  
or debit my credit card ☐ Barclaycard ☐ Access  
Card No

Name

Address

Fuller Micro Systems, The ZX Centre  
71 Dale Street, Liverpool 2. Tel: 051-236 6109



Fuller reserve the right to alter specification of the equipment without prior notice.



# Letters

## Still waiting

Some Microdrive and QL potential customers may be interested in the progress of Sinclair's other little wonder — the Flat Screen Pocket tv.

I placed my order when the set was first announced in October 1983 intending the tv as a Christmas present for my son. Having been previously a purchaser of ZX81/Printer/Spectrum/Microdrive — all when first announced — I should have known better.

On the 15th November I received a letter to acknowledge my order — a cheerful missive full of stock phrases like 'please rest assured' — 'no firm delivery date yet' — 'just as soon as' etc. and concluding with 'You'll hear from us again in January'.

However, the next letter came on 22nd December and apologised for the slow build-up of production which meant that they would not be able to deliver my tv until January and ended with — "please accept our Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and prosperous 1984 — complete with pocket tv".

I next heard from Sinclair on 6th February this year when I received a form requesting payment as delivery was imminent. This I confirmed with a cheque by return of post and received an acknowledgement on 26th February which said I could expect delivery by the end of March.

The next letter was dated 29th March and informed me that production was still slow to build up and my tv would not be delivered until April. The good news was that my cheque had not yet been encashed which was small comfort as it had been a Building Society cheque which had of course been debited from my account on drawing.

On the 18th April I telephoned 0276 62111 to enquire when delivery was likely and a charming young lady assured me that my tv would be despatched by the end of the month. Today is May 2nd and as nothing has yet materialised I telephoned again only to be told by another and equally charming young lady that de-

spatch should be within 10 to 14 days.

Seven months wait is well in excess of the time it took to get either my Spectrum or Microdrive, but I am very patient and intend to keep on at them until I get my tv.

However, if it should turn out to be faulty I think I may take the trouble to drive down to Cambridge and insist that Uncle Clive eats it — in a sandwich with all those bloody letters!

Yours in hope,

John C. Priest  
53 Gaskell Crescent  
Thornton-Cleveleys  
Blackpool, Lancashire

PS Would anyone care to hazard a guess on the waiting period for the battery driven car when it is announced?

## Radiated interference

In PCW, May 3 your correspondent D. McRiner reported a 'strange anomaly' regarding the loading of tapes on his ZX Spectrum.

From his description, this would appear to be a straightforward case of electromagnetic interference (EMI). Nearly all electronic devices which incorporate circuitry for generating pulses (such as TV sets and computers) will generate EMI to a greater or lesser extent.

There are two ways in which this EMI can affect other equipment. One is via any

interconnecting cabling, eg. if one or more pieces of equipment are connected to the same power supply. This is known as conducted interference. The other way is 'through the air' so to speak. In other words the offending equipment radiates EMI which, under the right circumstances, can cause a voltage to be induced in a second piece of equipment which, in turn, can cause it to malfunction. This is known as radiated interference. This would seem to be the case with D. McRiner's experience.

While there is not, as far as I know, any legislation governing levels of EMI from television sets, both the USA and West Germany have published standards, enforceable in law, concerning EMI from computers. It is widely believed that the EEC will introduce legislation, possibly within the next year or so, which will force UK manufacturers to drastically reduce levels of EMI from computers and computerised equipment.

J. McQuillan  
Flat 3  
24 Priory Road  
Great Malvern  
Worcs

## Legal insurance

I wish to clarify a number of points in the article by Gail Counsell (PCW, May 10) concerning the service offered by The Software Registry.

It was stated that the legal expenses insurance excludes interlocutory (sic) actions. The precise exclusion is "ex parte legal proceedings". It was strongly implied that the insurance excludes actions in which defendants claim authorship of an allegedly infringing program. The precise exclusion is of disputes concerning "proprietaryship of the insured copyright". Insured-copyright is defined in the policy in terms of copyright subsisting in an item registered with the Software Registry. The obligation of a claimant to submit a legal opinion, to which Ms Counsell takes such exception, is a standard clause of legal expenses insurance and is

not unique to our policy.

The allegation that our brochure avoids saying that registration does not give any added legal protection as such is wholly incorrect. The brochure contains several very clearly worded statements to the effect that we are not granting legal rights but are attempting to maximise the benefits of current legislation. Other publications, including a leading national newspaper, have remarked upon the candid way in which our brochure deals with this and other points. Our documentation contains no inaccurate or misleading statements and potential clients are specifically requested to read all of the small print.

The Software Registry is a consortium of 32 practising intellectual property specialists. Prior to launch, our service was thoroughly vetted by further specialist lawyers including an eminent barrister experienced in software piracy litigation.

A number of software houses and computer industry organisations have publicly welcomed our initiative in establishing this service.

It is unrealistic to expect a solicitor to prepare and execute an Affidavit for less than £23 (including VAT) and the average cost of an interlocutory action is likely to be nearer £5,000 than £15,000, with some interlocutory actions costing significantly less. It is possible to arrange cover for Anton Pillar (sic) orders but the premium is many times our registration fee.

The value of our legal expenses insurance is that it provides confidence to initiate relatively inexpensive interlocutory proceedings with financial backing should one thereby become embroiled in a full trial where costs of £100,000 are all too possible.

Personally, I would not like to enter a software copyright legal battle armed only with an unopened registered envelope.

C M Sturt  
Director

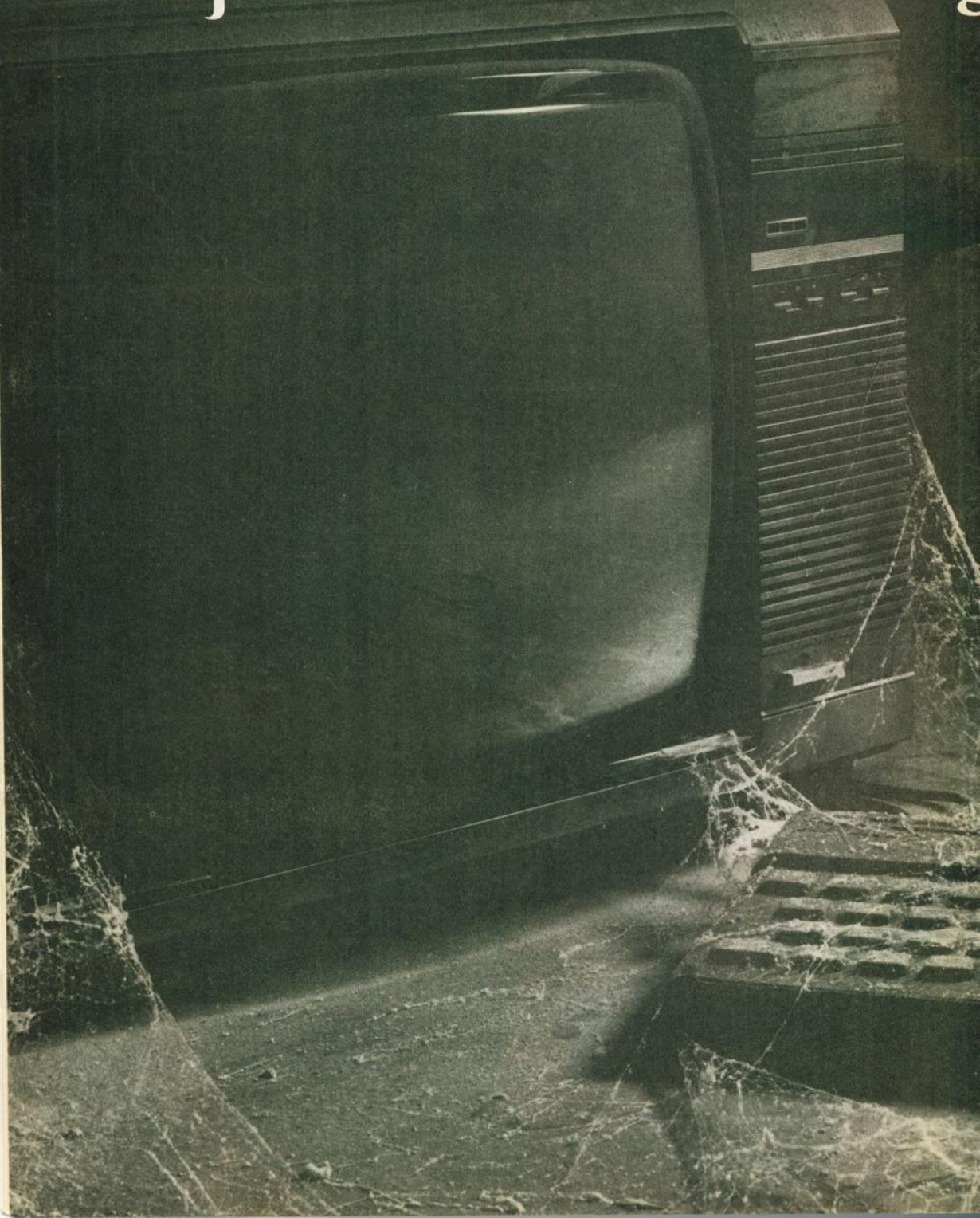
The Software Registry  
60 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
London WC2



"Is there a 'sell by' date on this standard?"



**We've just won an award for blowing**





# away the cobwebs.

You know the story, the Micro you thought would give endless hours of fun soon becomes a five minute wonder. You get bored and dump it on the shelf to gather dust.

With the introduction of Micronet 800 you now have access to a vast mouth-watering menu of facts, figures and fun.

If we said it was a major breakthrough in microcomputer technology we wouldn't be going over the top.



Just recently at the Which Computer Show we picked up the prestigious RITA award for Systems Innovation of the Year.

RITA is the 'Oscar' of the computer industry. Judged and sponsored by the major forces in related institutes, associations and publications.

Incredibly all it costs is just a pound a week to take up a subscription to the Micronet system. Plus, for most of you, a local telephone call whenever you want to connect up.

Then you've got 30,000 pages at your fingertips, including Computer News Flashes, all that Prestel has to offer, and Micronet's SwapShop. Where you can buy anything from joysticks to second-hand computers.

Interact with our daily news update. You can even take over the world; competing against hundreds of other subscribers on the system, in our 'Starnet' game.

If we haven't won you over with that then try downloading our wide selection of free games and other tele-software.

Naturally, you can run household accounts, manage businesses, talk to other subscribers nationwide using the system.

The list is endless and so is the fun.

The only addition you need to connect with Micronet 800 is a modem unit.

Apart from that all you'll want is a pen to fill in the coupon for more information. Then we'll have you linked up in no time.

Before the dust settles, in fact.

Please send me the full facts about Micronet 800.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Make/Model of Micro \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

MICRONET 800, Scriptor Court, 155 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3AD.  
Telephone 01-278 3143.

Pop 6

**micronet**  
800



# Fruity

Stay healthy with a fruit eating game for the Commodore 64 from Lee Tanner (mind the mushrooms though — they're not so nice)

This is *fruity* for the Commodore 64 with Simons' Basic and joystick.

The game is set in an enchanted garden. You must control a spider to eat all the fruit which is scattered amongst the mushrooms.

Further instructions on play are included in the program.

There are ten levels of Play — Level 10

the hardest. After each screen is completed the program automatically moves on to the next level, but you have the option to start at any level by using f1 before any new game starts.

## Program Notes

10-49 Main loop to move spider.  
50-59 Increment score.

90-93 Sound effect.  
100-299 Set up variables and set level.  
300-360 Next level.  
400-470 Lose a life.  
500-650 End game and ask for another.  
1000-1050 Place mushrooms on screen.  
1500-1550 Place fruit on screen.  
2000-2090 Draw screen.  
3000-4030 Title and set starting level.  
5000-5370 Instructions.  
10000-11000 Define graphics.

```

5 GOTOTO 100
9
10 PROC MOVE
12 VOL 15:WAVE 1,00100000:ENVELOPE 1,0,9,0,0
14 PRINT AT(14,0);"L1-1:MUSIC 10,";:PLAY 1
15 F=INT(RND(1)*5)+70:IFF(F=70)=4THEN15
16 POKESP+500/F:POKECC+500/FC(F=70):EXEC BLIP
19 FORZ=1TOFT
20 JS=JOY:IFJS=0THEN30
22 IFS=1THENND=64
24 IFS=5THENND=65
26 IFS=3THENND=66
28 IFS=7THENND=67
30 ND=(ND+64)*40-(ND=65)*40+(ND=67)-(ND=66)
32 IFPEEK(SP+ND)=32THEN40
34 IFPEEK(SP+ND)=69OR(NOTPEEK(SP+ND)=F)THENCALL DIE
36 IFPEEK(SP+ND)=FTHENCALL SCORE
40 POKESP+ND/32:ND=ND:POKESP+ND:POKECC+ND/9:FORI=1TODE:NEXTI
42 IFF(0)=4ANDF(1)=4ANDF(2)=4ANDF(3)=4ANDF(4)=4THENCALL NEXT
44 B=B-1:PRINT AT(34,0);"B" " " :IFB=0THENCALL DIE
46 NEXTZ:GOTO15
49
50 PROC SCORE
51 VOL 15:WAVE 1,00100000:ENVELOPE 1,0,0,15,0
52 MUSIC 1,";:SC=SC+LV*10:PRINT AT(22,0);"S":IFBL=1THEN58
54 F(F=70)=F(F=70)+1:SC=SC+LV*10:PRINT AT(22,0);"S":IFBL=1THEN58
55 IFS=1000THENFLASH 5,13,2:MUSIC 1,";:SC=SC+LV*10:PRINT AT(22,0);"S":IFBL=1THEN58
;PLAY 1 56 IFS=1000THENFLASH 0:LI=LI+1:PRINT AT(14,0);"L1-1:BL=1:
COLOUR 13,1
58 END PROC
59
60
61 PROC BLIP
62 VOL 15:WAVE 1,00100000:ENVELOPE 1,0,9,0,2
63 MUSIC 5,";:PLAY 2
64 END PROC
65
66 EXEC GRAPHICS
67 SP=5224:CC=55296:HS=0:FC(0)=2:FC(1)=5:FC(2)=0:FC(3)=6:FC(4)
=2:DIMM(100)
68 SC=0:ND=66:W=122:LI=3:LV=1:B=1000:BL=0:COLOUR 13,1
69 EXEC TITLE
70 COTO LV*10+130
71 M=10:DE=0:FT=50:GOTO240
72 M=20:DE=70:FT=40:GOTO240
73 M=25:DE=60:FT=40:GOTO240
74 M=25:DE=50:FT=35:GOTO240
75 M=30:DE=40:FT=30:GOTO240
76 M=35:DE=30:FT=30:GOTO240
77 M=40:DE=25:FT=25:GOTO240
78 M=45:DE=20:FT=25:GOTO240
79 M=50:DE=10:FT=20:GOTO240
80 M=60:DE=0:FT=20
81 EXEC SCREEN
82 EXEC FRUIT
83 EXEC MUSHROOM

```









# In the crystal ball

Ray Berry looks at microprocessors and their history

If ever you take a sneaky look inside a computer (and it may not be advisable if your computer is under guarantee), you will see one 'chip' that is usually much bigger than the rest — the microprocessor.

There are only about three or four different kinds of microprocessor in all of those different computers in your high street store. They can usually be recognised by the number written on the top. The most common is the Zilog Z80, which can be found inside Sinclair computers like the Spectrum and the ZX81. The Z80 can also be found in the Sharp machines, the Tandy machines and the good old Video Genie, to name but a few.

The other most common microprocessor is called the 6502 and this is in the BBC, the Electron, the Vic, the Oric/Atmos and the good old Pet. The Commodore 64 has a microprocessor called the 6510, which which is very similar to the 6502. The odd man out is the Dragon, which has favoured the Motorola 6809 along with the Tandy Colour Computer.

Whatever micro you own, you can be sure that it has a microprocessor of some description. Without that microprocessor, we would not have a computer in our homes. In fact we would not have microcomputers as we know them at all.

So, where did these wonderful things come from? Well, back in the 1940s, the earliest of the electronic computers had processing units which consisted of thousands of glass valves, much like those in the old 'steam' radios. These computers weren't very reliable, in fact they broke down in a few hours. The heat from all the valves was enormous and extremely difficult to cope with. The first computer of this type was ENIAC which stands for Electronic Numerical Integrator And Computer. This monster was developed in America in 1946 and it consisted of 18,000 valves, was 60 feet by 25 feet and weighed something in the region of 30 tons.

Near the end of the 1940s, the transistor was invented. This led to what is now known as the second generation of computers — ENIAC being the first generation.

The second generation grew up in the 1950s and the early 1960s and consisted of hundreds of circuit boards which contained thousands of transistors, resistors, capacitors etc. In a circuit board about six inches square there was probably about 10 or 20 transistors and a hundred other components. There would have been several hundred to several thousand of these boards all connected by wire — they usually filled several rooms.

Later in the 1960s, the new technology really started going places. The people who made the transistors developed a whole new technology. It became possible to put

several dozen transistors on a 'chip' of silicon and the integrated circuit was born. The computer generations seem to get a bit intermingled here, but these early integrated circuits were used in what is called third generation computers.

It took a lot of these 'chips' to construct a board which could be called a computer, and it required a lot of other components such as resistors and capacitors to make up the required processing power. No single chip could be called a microprocessor, at least not as we know them.

In fact, it wasn't until 1971 when a company called Intel produced the first microprocessor. This microprocessor was based on a chip of silicon about a quarter of an inch square which carried 2250 transistors and all the necessary components and circuitry to be called a processing unit or microcomputer in its own right. The fourth generation was born.

These superchips are known as Large Scale Integration (LSI) microprocessors. By 1976, these chips could carry more than 20,000 components and they formed the basis of the fourth generation computers that we buy in the shops today.

The obvious question is 'What comes next?' What will the fifth generation consist of? To answer this, it is worth having a look at what we are trying to develop in 1984 and hope that that points the way. Much work is going on, both in this country and abroad, to develop better microprocessors.

This research takes various directions, one of which is to add other functions of the computer such as memory and communi-

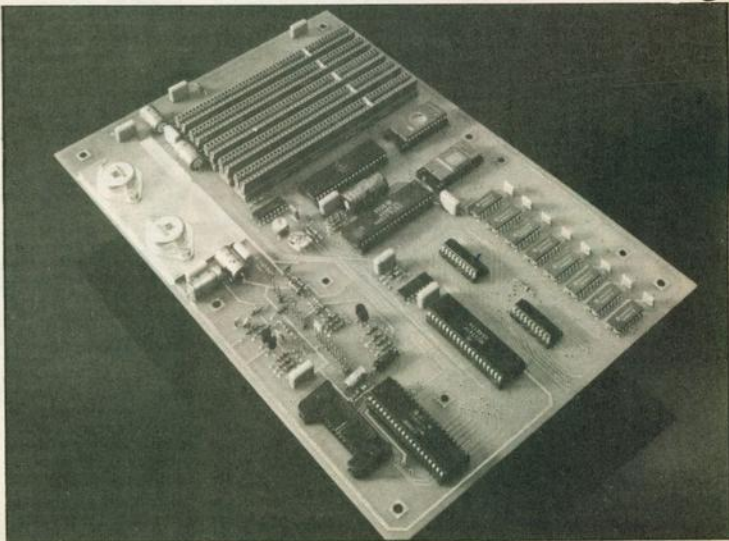
cations facilities to the microprocessor all in a single chip. One example of this is the British 'Transputer' developed by Inmos. The transputer is expected to cope with about ten million instructions per second and to be able to communicate with other transputers within the same machine, making an extremely powerful computer.

Another technical area of research is into the mass production of Gallium Arsenide (GaAs). This is a semiconductor material like silicon, but through which electrons can travel up to six times faster. GaAs is already used in some advanced transistors, but is difficult to produce in large quantity.

As for the actual fifth generation computers themselves, what will they be like? There is a project in this country known as the Alvey Programme, which was set up last year by a government committee headed by British Telecom's John Alvey. This programme, with the help of nearly £400 million from the government and British Industry, is looking into the future and researching new very large scale integrated circuits, artificial intelligence and new and innovative ways to write complex programs.

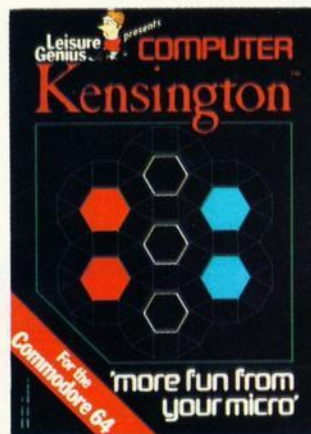
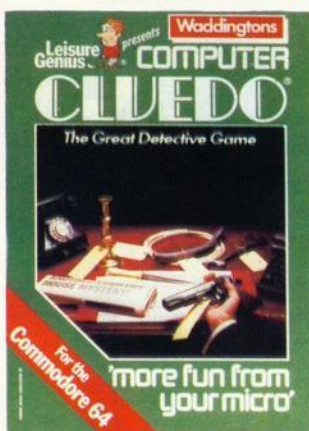
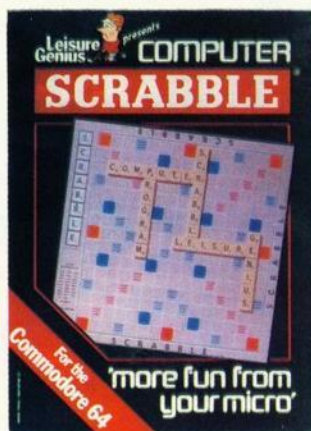
Similar work is being done in the United States, but nowhere is there a more expensive and well publicised fifth generation project than in Japan. It is a 10 year programme to develop computers that have knowledge and can mimic human thought processes. The Japanese project is expected to have cost a thousand million pounds by the year 1990.

It is difficult to look into the future. Probably impossible. I can remember reading an important scientific report on future technology that was published in the 1930s and they failed to predict jet aircraft, nuclear power and computers. I think I'll just put my crystal ball away.





# Ingenious...



**Computer games for people who hate computer games.**

Give your joystick a rest, and your brain a chance  
with these family favourites.

Machine code programs for the Commodore 64, and coming soon  
for the Spectrum and BBC/B.

**Software by...**



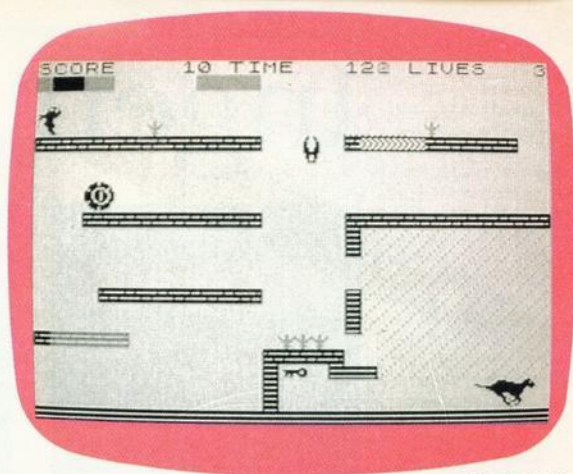
DISTRIBUTORS:  
Ferranti & Craig. Telephone: 0722 330222  
Websters Software. Telephone: 0483 62222

3 Montagu Row, London W1H 1AB

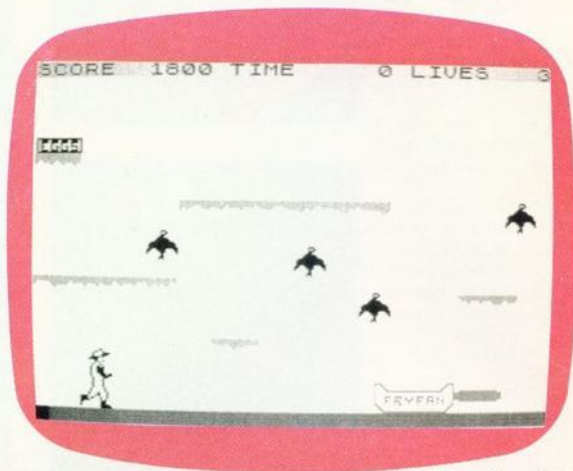
SCRABBLE® trade mark and copyright licensed by Scrabble Schutzrechte und Handels GmbH (a J.W. Spear & Sons PLC associated company)  
CLUEDO® trade mark and copyright licensed by Waddingtons Games Limited. MASTERMIND® trade mark and copyright licensed by Invicta Plastics Limited.  
KENSINGTON™ trade mark and copyright licensed by Whale Toys Limited. LEISURE GENIUS® is a registered trade mark of Winchester Holdings Limited.



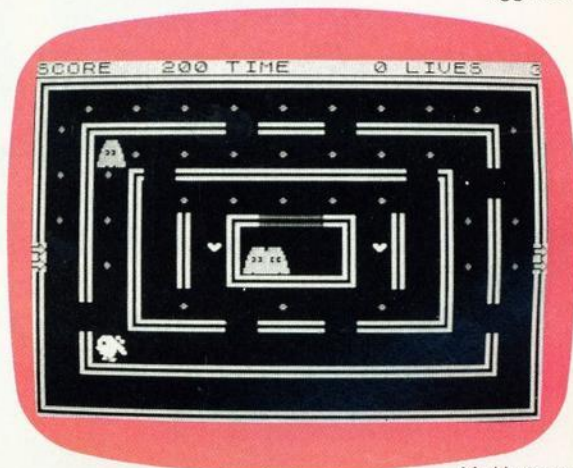
# BEAT THIS AND WIN £3000



Manic Koala



Egg Pack



Ms Hortense

All games above were  
designed and created  
using 48K Spectrum  
H.U.R.G.

# MELBOURNE



The H.U.R.G. competition offers you over £3,000 of prizes for your game designs without the need of any programming knowledge! Only H.U.R.G. gives you the chance to earn royalties from programs based on your ideas — it's the easiest way to join the software revolution without having to learn how to program!

But you will have to hurry to win the £3,000 prize as the competition closes on April 30, 1984. It's so easy you owe it to yourself to enter your game ideas. Games will be judged on the basis of originality, graphics and playability. Further details are available with every copy of H.U.R.G.

Whether you want to share your game ideas with the world at large or just with your friends and family, H.U.R.G. is the game design program for you. At last, the games you imagine can be the games you play!

**H**IGH LEVEL — requires no programming skills — simply design the shapes you want, and H.U.R.G. will animate them into the most amazing on-screen action you've ever seen. Choose any setting for your game, from mazes to outer space or sinister caverns — the only limit is your imagination.

**U**SER FRIENDLY — H.U.R.G. will lead you through a series of easy-to-follow procedures, ending in the creation of a game that is as wild as your imagination.

**R**EAL TIME — You can see exactly what you're creating at all times. Every game has hundreds of variations, and you can change its features at any time. You can speed up the action, change the size of the characters and even make them more vicious — it's all up to you; and you can see it all on-screen immediately.

**G**AMES DESIGNER — H.U.R.G. enables you to design and store the games you create on cassette and play them later using H.U.R.G. as the control program. It's the one program you will never tire of.

Now you can create all the stunning arcade effects on your 48K Spectrum that up until now have only been available to professional software houses.

BY PUBLIC  
DEMAND  
COMPETITION  
EXTENDED TO  
JUNE 30, 1984

# HOUSE

**Orders to:**  
**Melbourne House Publishers**  
**131 Trafalgar Road**  
**Greenwich, London SE10**

Correspondence to:  
Church Yard  
Tring  
Hertfordshire HP23 5LU

All Melbourne House cassette software is unconditionally guaranteed against malfunction.

Trade enquiries welcome.

☐ Please send me your free 52 page catalogue  
Please send me:

## SPECTRUM

<input type="checkbox"/> Spectrum The Hobbit 48K	£14.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Spectrum Penetrator 48K	£6.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Terror-Daktil 4D 48K	£6.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Melbourne Draw 48K	£8.95
<input type="checkbox"/> H.U.R.G. 48K	£14.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Abersoft Forth 48K	£14.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Spectrum Classic Adventure 48K	£6.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Spectrum Mugsy 48K	£6.95

## COMMODORE 64

### Software

<input type="checkbox"/> Commodore 64 The Hobbit	£14.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Commodore 64 Hungry Horace	£5.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Commodore 64 Horace Goes Skiing	£5.95
<input type="checkbox"/> ACOS+	£8.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Commodore 64 Classic Adventure	£6.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Commodore 64 Star Trooper	£6.95

## VIC 20

<input type="checkbox"/> VIC Cosmonauts	£5.95
<input type="checkbox"/> The Wizard & Princess	£5.95

## ORIC-1

<input type="checkbox"/> Oric-1/48K The Hobbit	£14.95
--	--------

## BBC

<input type="checkbox"/> BBC Model B The Hobbit	£14.95
---	--------

All versions of "The Hobbit" are identical with regard to the adventure program. Due to memory limitations, BBC cassette version does not include graphics.

£ .....  
Please add 80p for post & pack £ .....**80**

TOTAL £ .....

I enclose my ☐ cheque  
☐ money order for £ .....

Please debit my Access card No .....


Expiry Date .....

Signature .....

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Access orders can be telephoned through on our 24-hour ansafone (01) 858 7397. 





## Snow Go

**H**ungary Horace is a blue blob with arms and legs who first appeared in some games for the Sinclair Spectrum. *Horace Goes Skiing* was one of these, and it has now been converted to run on the Commodore 64. Before Horace actually makes it to the ski slope, he must hire some skis from the hut, on the far side of a busy road – a hazardous business, since the drivers at this ski resort will mow down any pedestrian who gets in their way. Once Horace has hired his skis, he has to cross over again to get the ski slope. In this second phase of the game Horace has to ski down a slalom course between pairs of flags, avoiding the trees which are dotted about the slopes.

The game can be played with either keyboard or joys-



tick, and full instructions are given on the cassette insert. The program loads very quickly (for a Commodore anyway) since it incorporates a high-speed loader program called *Pavlova*. This loads, the game in about 2 minutes, as fast as the 1541 disk drive, it is claimed.

The graphics are quite

smoothly done, but are not exceptional – no better than the Spectrum original in fact. The sound is another matter though. During the game itself, it is OK, but no better than average. However, the catchy intro music is exceptionally good – probably the best music I have heard in a game for the 64.

Overall this is a well executed and entertaining program. However, there is not much variety and it and I found it quite quickly becoming repetitive.

**Richard Corfield**

**Program** *Horace Goes Skiing*  
**Price** £5.95 **Micro** Commodore 64  
**Supplier** Melbourne House, Church Yard, Tring, Herts, HP235LU.

## Mere Human

**P**sytron for the spectrum comes in an exceptionally large box, with an exceptional-

ly large booklet of instructions to match. You are the Psytron, 'less than human, far more than mere computer', your mission being to survive a six level attack on the Betula 5 Installation. The levels get more difficult and more complicated as you proceed through the game, and the last level, the 'final conflict', is so difficult that the publishers are giving a prize of a QL computer to the first person to complete it (though God knows where they think they will get it from!).

The graphics are superb – each location in the game has its own high resolution picture in full perspective. However, my main complaint with the game is that the controls are very complicated: each level has its own controls, and it is almost impossible to remember all of them. Whatever happened to left, right and fire?

This is a game for the sort of person who is prepared to sit up all night trying to master each level, and if you are persistent and can keep a cool head, I am sure that you will find it rewarding.

**Simon Lane**

**Program** *Psytron* **Price** £9.95  
**Micro** Spectrum **Supplier**  
Beyond Software, Durrant House, 8 Herbal Hill, London EC1 5J3

## Drifting into Space

**I**an Bell's *Freefall* is an arcade-style game for thinking people. The scenario has you as the sole survivor of an attack on a space station. In a space-suit, but unarmed, you have to face various nasty beasts. You can punch, ram and kick most of them into submission. If you are dexterous enough you can even catch one

of their bombs and sling it back at them. You cannot win (at least I'm not good enough to beat off the attackers for more than a few minutes) but the longer you fight the better. Your air supply will run out anyway, but faster if you are injured. In that wonderful fantasy logic of computer games you get extra lives the more points you accumulate.

The game makes a most intelligent use of joysticks. There are eight sectors visualised round the stick. With the fire button held down moving

the stick to any sector fires jets on the space suit and moves your character to match. With the fire button released however the stick controls limb movements and allows you to punch and kick in any combination. The animation is cleverly realistic and once you get used to the control system it is very effective. There are keyboard options but frankly they are a poor alternative.

Unfortunately, the display is dull black and white with such small characters that you feel only a projection tv four feet wide would allow you to feel involved in the action. This game will not attract the bright lights, noises and sparkle brigade. For the experienced gamer it does offer a new type of challenge, intellectual as well as reactive. And as you survive longer so the space station spins faster and you have to re-learn trajectories. I fear this one may be too cerebral to attract the large sales it warrants.

**Program** *Free Fall* **Price** £9.95  
**Micro** BBCB **Supplier** Acornsoft, 4a, Market Hill, Cambridge.

**Dave Watterson**



## In Jest

**"T**he biggest appetite ever" is how *Slurpy* is described. However, don't be fooled into expecting a *Pac-Man* look-alike game, because this one is quite different. *Slurpy* is a green blob with an eye and a long snout, who floats about inside a cave along with various other creatures with such colourful names as Glowbug, Widowmaker, Cave Phantom, Creeper's Deathball and Evil Eye. Anything coming close to *Slurpy*'s snout is sucked in, accompanied by a very convincing sounding slurping noise. Unfortunately, some of these creatures are poisonous and must be spat out immediately or else you will lose one of your three lives. Some of them may actually attack *Slurpy* – this also loses you a life.



Quite apart from the creatures, there are also occasional earthquakes which may cause stalactites from the roof of the cave to fall on you, and in some caves a kind of deadly red whirlwind is also found. If you survive all the problems in one cave and you slurp up all the creatures which are not poisonous then you move on to the next cave which is the same again but faster with more creatures.



The game can be played with either keyboard or joystick, and instructions are provided on the cassette insert and in the program. One or two players can take part and there are four levels of difficulty.

The graphics and sound are both fairly simple, but nevertheless they are effective. The graphics in particular are nicely done – there is often a lot going on in the cave. The game itself is good fun – the concept seems quite original and it is well executed.

**Richard Corfield**  
**Program Slurpy Price £7.95**  
**Micro Commodore 64 Supplier** Thorn EMI Computer Software, 296 Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hants.

## Microdrive

**T**rans-Express will, says Romantic Robot, transfer your cassette-based software to Microdrive. Note, they do not claim all your software – they admit that not all will go across, and then only some 60% can be expected to run.

After loading Trans-Express a short menu appears, offering the option of Microdrive to

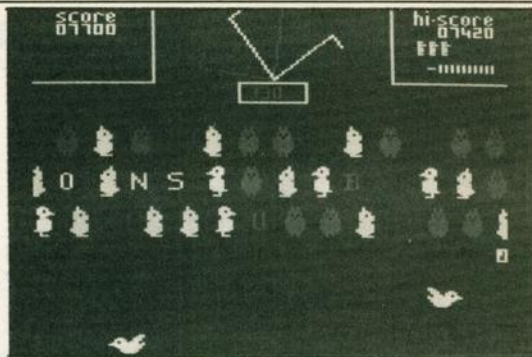
Microdrive, Tape to Microdrive and Instructions (the instructions, when encountered, go on about a facility called Supertrans, which apparently will deal with extra-large programs, but I couldn't find this facility). The user will want to see the instructions first – these consist of several on-screen pages of explanation which can be printed as desired. Romantic Robot supplies no other documentation, and says that all the instructions are clear, and prompts are given from within the program. This is true, but still, I would have liked a manual.

A Basic program will be loaded in two parts; the header first and then the main bulk of the program. Machine coded tapes are loaded in a similar manner, although many of the commercial tapes available nowadays consist of several blocks of code, each of which is handled separately by Trans-Express.

Cataloguing the cartridge when all is done shows your program all present and correct. Now comes the good bit – running the thing! Romantic Robot's claim that Trans-Express will transfer your cassette-based software to cartridge is quite correct. However, not many of them will run without some modification. *Manic Miner* will, but *Jet Set Willy* won't. Neither will *The Hobbit*, nor any of the other long adventures for which the Microdrive would seem so suited. What of more serious software? *Microsphere's Omnicalc*, about the best spreadsheet for the Spectrum, wouldn't run (although there is, I believe, a version now available on cartridge), and *VU-File* will anyway only *Save* to cassette, so the exercise seemed a bit pointless to even attempt.

So, Trans-Express fulfils the claims made for it, but only the user experienced in machine-code disassembling and re-assembling would make full use of it (and they would surely have written their own routine!).

**Program Trans Express Price £9.95 Micro Spectrum 16/48K Supplier** Romantic Robot, 113, Melrose Avenue, London NW2.



## Shot Away

**C**arousel, written by David Shepherd, is a superbly animated version of the fairground shooting gallery. Your task is to shoot down rows of ducks, rabbits, owls and letters which parade in three ranks above you. Though the characters appear to trot their movement is very like the endless loop transporting mechanical models in a carnival booth. There is also a spoked wheel spinning above the ranks which you have to shoot. Clear all the targets and a

polar bear appears on screen for you to pot shot if you can – he reverses direction and speeds up with every hit – I never got more than two on him. There is also the obligatory fairground organ playing.

So far, so good – an excellent, colourful, game.

The snag is that it is soon very boring. This is very much a game for juniors who will quickly learn to time their shots and run up pleasingly high scores.

**Dave Watterson**  
**Program Carousel Price £9.95**  
**Micro BBC B Supplier** Acornsoft, 4a Market Hill, Cambridge.

## Pole Apart

**I**f you enjoy the arcade game *Pole Position*, then you will probably enjoy *3D Speed Duel* – a similar type of game for the Commodore 64. In this you race your car versus another controlled by the 64 around a twisting circuit.

Either keyboard or joystick can be used and full instructions are provided on screen. The difficulty of the game can be varied considerably – you can choose the difficulty of the circuit (5 levels of twistiness), the speed of the other car (5 speeds), and the number of laps to complete (from 1 to 5).

The graphics are fairly simple but effective. Perspective is used to create an impression of driving around a circuit which disappears into the distance, and the sky and horizon scroll horizontally as you steer your car, giving an apparently changing viewpoint.

The use of sound is a bit disappointing, although you can tell how fast you are travelling from the pitch of your engine noise, which is useful. However, the other car seems to be powered by some kind of silent propulsion system. Also when you crash the simple graphics and sound combine to make the effect a little unspectacular.

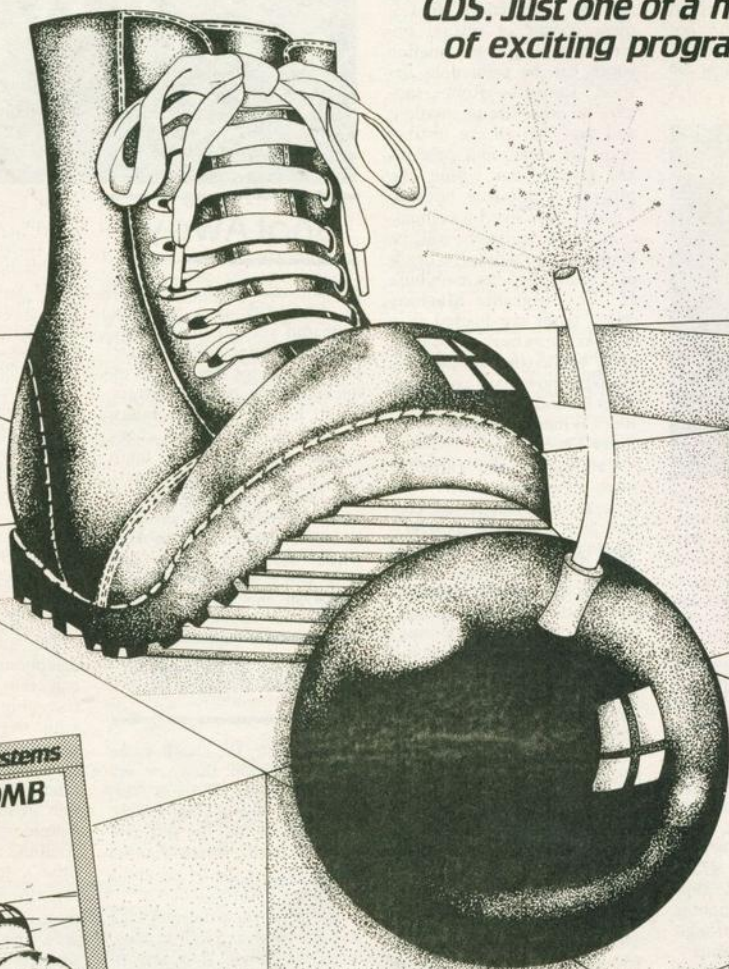
By tuning the playing options just about everyone should be able to select a game which is difficult enough to be challenging but not so difficult that it becomes frustrating. However, it may eventually pall because the variety provided by the hazards normally found in other racing games (eg, oil slicks) does not occur in this one. Nevertheless it provides plenty of good straightforward fun.

**Richard Corfield**  
**Program 3D Speed Duel Supplier** DK' Tronics, Unit 6, Shirehall Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AQ.



# *The CDS experience, more action...more adventure...*

*This is Timebomb a brand new Arcade Adventure game from CDS. Just one of a new range of exciting programs....*



*Currah  $\mu$  Speech compatible*

**SPECTRUM 16/48K £5.95**

\* Selected titles only



**CDS Micro Systems**

ONLY £5.95 each at W.H.Smiths, \*Boots, John Menzies and other leading Computer Stores, or... direct from CDS Micro Systems  
Send Cheque or P.O. To CDS 10, Westfield Close, Tickhill, Doncaster DN11 9LA. Tel: (0302) 744129. (Trade enquiries welcome)



## Bits and pieces

*David Lawrence takes a look at what you need to start networking*

In the first article in this series we took a brief look at some of the things that people were actually doing with micros in the field of networking.

Basically, to communicate with other micros over a telephone line you need five things:

- 1) A micro which can output to a port.
- 2) A modem to translate the output of the micro into a form capable of being sent down a telephone line.
- 3) A program to deal with incoming and outgoing information.
- 4) Some money.
- 5) A telephone, preferably using the new format plug sockets.

Exactly which equipment you will need will depend upon which micro you start with and who you want to communicate with. The variety of modems and software being used is bewildering. The easiest area to get into is communicating with Prestel. Micronet is a service directly aimed at micro users on Prestel and they can supply equipment which will allow owners of most of the popular machines to get started. To communicate with bulletin boards and other micro users, you will have to put together your own package.

### 1) The Micro

Just about every popular micro on the market is now being used for communication in one way or another, though it would take pages to go through the bewildering variety of commercial and amateur packages on offer for each.

If you are buying a new machine, then it is only fair to point out that by far the most popular for this kind of application seems to be the BBC Micro, for which there is a mass of software and hardware available at reasonable prices. The only sensible advice for other machines is to approach the people who sell or make modems and ask them whether they know of any way their equipment can be adapted to your machine.

### 2) Modems

The best micros for networking are those which can output material according to a standard known as RS232. This basically lays down the way in which the on/off pattern of bits which represent the material to be transmitted can be translated into changes in voltage levels along a wire. Not all micros can actually output RS232 unaided, though most can usually have an add-on tacked onto a port to translate their output.

Once RS232 can be obtained from two micros, it should normally be possible to make them communicate, provided that you have the software to do it. What they

will not do, however, is to communicate down the phone line. Feeding varying voltage levels into the telephone system is not only illegal, it is pretty pointless, since the whole of the system is designed to stop them.

In order to communicate via a telephone, it is necessary to translate the output of the micro into audio tones which the telephone network will accept and transmit. This task is called "modulation" — translating back into RS232 is called, unsurprisingly, "demodulation". The piece of equipment which generate sound which is fed into the telephone handset, and those which generate an acceptable telephone signal which can be fed directly down the line. The first type, "acoustic" modems, can normally be used with any sort of telephone. All that is required is to connect the modem to the micro and to rest the telephone in a special cradle containing a small loudspeaker and microphone which will "talk" down the phone in much the same way as you would.

Modems which connect directly into the phone line are normally more reliable in use, but they can usually only be used with phones fitted with the new system of easily removable spare plastic phone jacks which allow phones to be plugged and unplugged with ease. They are supplied with a two way plug, so that both the phone and the modem are plugged into the same socket. Such modems require British Telecom approval (often slow in coming) before it is legal to use them, though there is nothing illegal in selling modems which have not been granted this approval.

This is a very difficult area. I have a modem which is approved by BT, called the

"Buzzbox" by Dacom. At the same time, a very high proportion of communication goes on using unapproved modems.

The most popular modem with bulletin board users at the present is called the Minor Miracles WS2000, which costs around £120 and will deal with just about all of the different formats for communicating that you are likely to need, including bulletin boards, Prestel type systems and the American Bell system. This particular modem is the only one I have seen seriously discussed over the past couple of months. But, it has to be pointed out that the WS2000 has not yet been approved by British Telecom and if you use such a modem you are liable to be fined if BT descend on your house and demand to examine your equipment.

### 3) Software

Unless you know what you are doing, there is no point in spending large sums of money on equipment without an absolute assurance that there is software available to turn your micro into a terminal for communication. In some cases, this software will come built into the micro, but none of the most popular machines have it.

A micro and modem without the software to make them work together are quite useless. There is plenty of amateur and commercial software around, but it is wise to make sure that you can get hold of some first.

### 4) Money

Just a reminder, whose importance you will not realize until you receive your first phone bill after taking up networking. Unless you are careful in the use of your new equipment, it will eat up money at an alarming rate. Do keep a track of how much time you are using, it could save you from a very nasty shock.

Any networker who would like to contribute ideas, routines, etc. to this page, please write to PCW at 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

### Useful Addresses

Minor Miracles, PO Box 48, Ipswich 1, IP4 2AB,  
Tel. 0473 50304 (Modems)

Tandata Marketing, Albert Road North, Malvern,  
Worcs., WR14 2TL (Modems)

Dacom, 16 Alston Drive, Bradwell Abbey,  
Milton Keynes, MK13 9HA, Tel. 0908 311885

Micronet 800, Scriptor Court, 155 Farringdon Rd,  
London, EC1R 3AD, Tel. 01 278 3143 (Complete  
Prestel service)



# dgh

10 North Street  
Ashford  
Kent

Ashford (0233) 25897  
(0233) 32597  
Telex 965451

## software centre

Serious software for home or business use . . . We offer an impressive range of useful software, fun software and educational software for most popular computers, plus a wide selection of hardware

Name	Producer	Price Cassette	Price Disk	Name	Producer	Price Cassette	Price Disk	Name	Producer	Price Cassette	Price Disk
<b>BBC</b>				<b>EASYSPELL</b>	CBM	—	£50.00	<b>SPECTRUM</b>			
BEEBCALC	Gemini	£19.95	£23.95	EASYSPELL (USA version)	CBM	—	£47.50	CASH BOOK & FINAL ACCOUNT	Gemini	—	£95.00
BEEBPLOT	Gemini	£19.95	—	EASYSTOCK	CBM	—	£75.00	CASH CONTROLLER	Richard Shepherd	—	£9.95
BUSINESS ACCOUNTS	Diamondsoft	£14.95	—	FUTURE FINANCE	CBM	—	£75.00	DATABASE	Gemini	—	£19.95
BUSINESS GAMES	Acornsoft	£9.95	—	HOME OFFICE	Audiogenic	14.95	—	Dialog	Gemini	—	£14.95
CASH BOOK & ACCOUNTS	Gemini	—	£95.00	INVENTORY 64	Comp S/W Assc	—	£29.95	EASILEDGER	Gemini	—	£19.95
DATABASE	Gemini	£19.95	£23.95	INVOICING	Software For All	23.00	£34.50	HOME ACCOUNTS	Gemini	—	£19.95
DATABASE	SFA	£8.95	—	INVOSTAT	Dialog	29.95	—	HOME BUDGET	Flowchart	—	£5.75
DATAMANAGER	SFA	£23.00	—	LABEL PRINTER	Bubble Bus	6.99	—	I.C.S	Gemini	—	£19.95
DESK DIARY	Acornsoft	£9.95	—	MAGPIE	Audiogenic	—	£99.95	MAIL LIST	Gemini	—	£19.95
DFM DATABASE	Dialog	£23.95	£23.95	MY SECRET FILE	Mosaic	9.95	—	MULTI-FUNCTION CASH	—	—	—
DFM DATABASE & LABELS	Dialog	£29.95	£29.95	PAPERCLIP	Batteries Incld	—	£99.50	CONTROL	Richard Shepherd	—	£9.95
EASILEDGER	Gemini	£19.95	£23.95	POSTER PRINTER	Bubble Bus	6.99	—	MY SECRET FILE	Mosaic	—	£9.95
FLEXI-FILE	Diamondsoft	£9.95	—	PRACTICALC	Comp S/W Assc	39.95	£44.50	OMNICALC	Microsphere	—	£9.95
HOME ACCOUNTS	Dialog	£14.95	—	PRIVATFILE	Comp S/W Assc	—	£44.50	PERSONAL FINANCE	D.K. Tronics	—	£6.95
HOME ACCOUNTS	Diamondsoft	£9.95	—	PURCHASE LEDGER	Software For All	23.00	£34.50	PROFILE	McGraw Hill	—	£9.95
HOME ACCOUNTS	Gemini	£19.95	£23.95	SALES LEDGER	Software For All	23.00	£34.00	PURCHASE LEDGER	Kemp	—	£14.95
HOME FINANCE	BBC Software	—	—	SIMPLEX 64	Microsimplex	—	£169.00	SALES LEDGER	Kemp	—	£14.95
INVOICING	SFA	£23.00	£34.00	STAT 64 (Rom Cartridge)	Handic	29.95	—	SMALL BUSINESS ACC	Psion	—	£12.95
INVOSTAT	Dialog	£29.95	£29.95	STOCK CONTROL	Software For All	23.00	£34.50	SPECPLT	Gemini	—	£19.95
INVSTAT	Gemini	£19.95	£23.95	SUPERBASE 64	Precision	—	£99.95	STOCKBOOK	A Parsons	—	£9.95
MAILIST	Gemini	£19.95	£23.95	SUPERFONT 40	English Software	6.95	—	STOCK CONTROL	Kemp	—	£14.95
MEMBERSHIP MANAGER	Acornsoft	£9.95	—	TAXMAN 2/3	Mondata	5.65	—	TASWORD	Tasman	—	£13.95
NUMBER BALANCE	Acornsoft	£9.95	—	TEXTPRO	Centresoftware	14.95	£14.95	VU CALC	Psion	—	£8.95
PURCHASE LEDGER	SFA	£23.00	£34.50	TRANSCRIPT	Dialog	29.95	—	VU FILE	Psion	—	£8.95
RECORD KEEPER	BBC Software	£13.75	—	VIZAWRITE & VISASPELL	Viza	—	£99.50	WORD PROCESSOR	Quicksilva	—	£5.95
SALES LEDGER	SFA	£23.00	£34.50	VIZAWRITE ONLY	Viza	—	£79.50				
SIMPLEX BBC	Microsimplex	—	£169.00	WORDCRAFT	Audiogenic	85.95	—				
STOCK CONTROL	SFA	£23.00	£34.50								
TAX CALC	BBC Software	£17.25	—								
VU CALC	Psion	£14.95	—								
VU FILE	Psion	£14.95	—								
VU TYPE/TYPING TUTOR	BBC Software	£15.99	—								
WORDSWORTH	Ian Copstake	£17.25	£21.95								
WORDSWORTH + UTILITIES	Ian Copstake	—	£30.95								
<b>COMMODORE 64</b>											
ADVERTISER	Bubble Bus	£6.99	—								
BUSICALC 1	Supersoft	£44.85	—								
CALC RESULT 64											
ADVANCED	Handic	—	£99.00								
DATABASE	Gemini	£19.95	£23.95								
DATAPRO	Centersoftware	£14.95	£14.95								
DELPHI'S ORACLE											
DATABASE	Batteries Incld	—	£99.55								
DFM DATABASE	Dialog	£23.95	£23.95								
DFM DATABASE & LABELS	Dialog	£33.95	£33.95								
EASYSRIPT	CBM	—	£75.00								

**dgh software centre  
opening May 26th**

Prices correct at time of press.  
All items subject to availability.

### CREDIT CARD ORDER LINE

Ashford (0233) 32597



**Cut out and  
keep  
this advert**

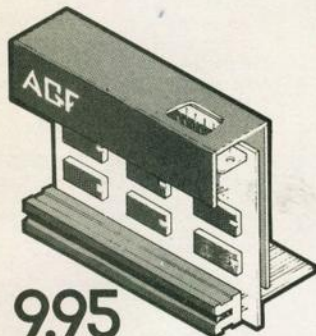
A division of T Denne & Sons Ltd



# AGF

PRICE  
BREAKTHROUGH

## EXCLUSIVE MAIL ORDER SPECIAL OFFER



9.95

## AGF Joystick Interface II for Spectrum or ZX81

Now the AGF Interface II is even better value. Since we pioneered the cursor-key interface in October 1982 there are now over 100 games or utility programs with either the AGF option or cursor key controlled - that makes it unbeatable at this new low price.

Still incorporating the all important rear expansion connector which means other peripherals can be connected at the same time i.e. Ram Packs, Printers, Speech Units etc, and of course the key replication principle used guarantees this will never conflict electrically with any other add-ons.

When you feel like upgrading to a more flexible joystick system you can claim 12.5% off the purchase price of our Programmable Interface.

All AGF Joystick interfaces will work with any industry standard joysticks using 9-pin 'D' plugs - including QuickShot II and the new Trackball controllers.

Don't settle for less ..... choose AGF.

## Joysticks

The choice is yours. The standard QuickShot is excellent value incorporating suction cups for sure-footed precision and a comfortably contoured handle with a convenient top firing button, plus conventional button in the base.

Four feet of cord terminates in the industry standard 9-pin 'D' plug for compatibility with our interfaces or direct connection to a selection of home micros.

The new QuickShot II has improved styling with a trigger type firing control as well as the top firing action and a broader base for greater suction stability. The rapid fire switch, which allows a continuous stream of shells where normally a button press is required for each one, is located in the base for easy access in use.

Cord length and termination is as the standard QuickShot controller.

8.95



QuickShot

## QuickShot II

11.95



**12.5% discount off our Programmable Interface** ~ valid 1 year on orders over £18  
**PLUS** free m/c arcade game with 1st 100 orders Spectrum only

so **HURRY...**  
**post free both ways**

Please allow up to 28 days from receipt of your order although we normally despatch from stock within 7 days. All AGF products are guaranteed for 12 months and are supplied on a 14 day money back undertaking. AGF Hardware, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Telephone: (0243) 823337.

FROM MR/MRS/MISS

ADDRESS

I ENCLOSE A CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER PAYABLE TO AGF HARDWARE FOR £

SEND (NO STAMP NEEDED) TO: A.G.F. HARDWARE, DEPT PW,

FREEPOST, BOGNOR REGIS, WEST SUSSEX, PO22 9BB

QTY	ITEM	ITEM PRICE	TOTAL
	AGF JOYSTICK INTERFACE II	9.95	
	QUICKSHOT JOYSTICK	8.95	
	QUICKSHOT II JOYSTICK	11.95	
ONE	DISCOUNT VOUCHER IF ORDER EXCEEDS £18	FREE	
ZX81 <input type="checkbox"/> ZX SPECTRUM <input type="checkbox"/> Please tick		FINAL TOTAL	



# One step, two step

**M Sheffield** presents a simple machine code program for pixel movement

Here is a small machine code routine that will move all the characters on the screen either 1 pixel to the right or 1 pixel to the left. Initially, the basic program in Fig 1 should be entered and run.

Let  $x = \text{Usr } 65280$  will move the whole screen 1 resolution to the right. Let  $x = \text{Usr } 65310$  will move the whole screen 1

resolution to the left. This program can be 'newed' and the *Usr* functions will still operate. To save the m/code routine on tape for later use, enter:

SAVE "move" CODE 65280,60 To load from tape on power-up of computer, enter: CLEAR 65279: LOAD "move" CODE

The *Usr* functions will now operate and

can be called from either the command mode or from within a program. For full effect, the *Usr* functions should be contained within a *For/Next* loop. To prevent unwanted characters appearing on the opposite side of the screen, the right hand edge should be 'zapped out' prior to moving to the right and the left hand edge prior to moving to the left.

An example is given in Fig. 2.

It may be of interest to you to know that the machine code program was assembled using an editor/assembler on a model 1 TRS-80 computer. A copy of the assembled listing is shown in Fig. 3.

Fig 1

```
10 CLEAR 65279
20 FOR n = 65280 TO 65339
30 READ x
40 POKE n,x
50 NEXT n
60 DATA 33,168,87,126,203,63,119,43,1,216
70 DATA 23,126,203,63,56,2,24,4,35,203
80 DATA 254,43,119,43,11,120,177,32,238,201
90 DATA 33,0,64,126,203,39,119,35,1,216
100 DATA 23,126,203,39,56,2,24,4,43,203
110 DATA 128,35,119,35,11,120,177,32,238,201
```

Fig 2

```
5 BORDER 1: PAPER 2: INK 7
10 PRINT AT 50,2: "Left/right move"
15 PRINT AT 19,0: INK 6: "(32 x GRAPHIC 6)";
20 CIRCLE 130,120,30: CIRCLE 100,65,40
30 FOR n = 1 TO 40
40 PLOT 0,175: DRAW INVERSE 1:0,-175: REM 'Zap out' left edge
50 LET x = USR 65310: REM Move left
60 NEXT n
70 FOR n = 1 TO 80
80 PLOT 255,0: DRAW INVERSE 1:0,175: REM 'Zap out' right edge
90 LET x = USR 65280: REM Move right
100 NEXT n
```



FF00		00100	ORG	0FF00H
FF00	21A057	00110	LD	HL,57A0H
FF03	7E	00120	LD	A,(HL)
FF04	CB3F	00130	SRL	A
FF06	77	00140	LD	(HL),A
FF07	2B	00150	DEC	HL
FF08	01DB17	00160	LD	BC,6104
FF0B	7E	00170	LD	A,(HL)
FF0C	CB3F	00180	SRL	A
FF0E	3802	00190	JR	C,SETC
FF10	1804	00200	JR	CONT
FF12	23	00210	INC	HL
FF13	CBFE	00220	SET	7,(HL)
FF15	2B	00230	DEC	HL
FF16	77	00240	LD	(HL),A
FF17	2B	00250	DEC	HL
FF18	0B	00260	DEC	BC
FF19	78	00270	LD	A,B
FF1A	B1	00280	OR	C
FF1B	20EE	00290	JR	NZ,LOOP
FF1D	C9	00300	RET	
FF1E	210040	00310	LD	HL,16384
FF21	7E	00320	LD	A,(HL)
FF22	CB27	00330	SLA	A
FF24	77	00340	LD	(HL),A
FF25	23	00350	INC	HL
FF26	01DB17	00360	LD	BC,6104
FF29	7E	00370	LD	A,(HL)
FF2A	CB27	00380	SLA	A
FF2C	3802	00390	JR	C,SETC2
FF2E	1804	00400	JR	CONT2
FF30	2B	00410	DEC	HL
FF31	CB06	00420	SET	0,(HL)
FF33	23	00430	INC	HL
FF34	77	00440	LD	(HL),A
FF35	23	00450	INC	HL
FF36	0B	00460	DEC	BC
FF37	78	00470	LD	A,B
FF38	B1	00480	OR	C
FF39	20EE	00490	JR	NZ,LOOP2
FF3B	C9	00500	RET	
FF00		00510	END	START
00000	TOTAL ERRORS			

Fig 3

CONT	FF16	00240	00200
CONT2	FF34	00440	00400
LOOP	FF0B	00170	00290
LOOP2	FF29	00370	00490
MOVE	FF1E	00310	
SETC	FF12	00210	00190
SETC2	FF30	00410	00390
START	FF00	00110	00510



# Next week — it's Wally Week



**MIKRO-GEN**

**commodore**

**A TYPICAL COMMODORE 64 OWNER WAITING  
FOR A PROGRAM TO LOAD**

**Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z**

**NOT ANY MORE  
RIPSPEED  
IS HERE!!!**

THIS NEW UTILITY ALLOWS YOU TO LOAD  
YOUR PROGRAMS AT 10 TIMES NORMAL  
SPEED. THIS PROGRAM WORKS WITH BOTH  
BASIC AND MACHINE CODE

LOOK AT THESE LOADING TIMES!

Normal rate	Disc Drive	With Ripspeed
11 min 20 sec	1 min 40 sec	80 sec

WHY PAY £200.00 FOR A DISC DRIVE WHEN FOR £7.95 YOU CAN BUY A RIPSPEED. IT COMES WITH FULL INSTRUCTIONS ON  
HOW TO CONVERT PROGRAMS TO FAST LOAD.

FROM THE SAME FACTORY AS THE C2N THE  
SUPER SAVER 20/64 DATA RECORDER  
(NO INTERFACE REQUIRED).....**£29.95**

COMMODORE 64 inc CASSETTE DECK **£229.95**  
QUICKSHOT II JOYSTICK WITH KEMPSTON  
TYPE INTERFACE.....**£19.95**



COMMODORE 64 TAPE TO DISK TRANSFER UTILITY.....**£9.95**  
ATARI ALL MODELS TAPE TO DISK TRANSFER UTILITY.....**£9.95**  
BBC TAPE TO DISK TRANSFER UTILITY.....**£9.95**  
TAPE TO TAPE BACKUP COPIERS.....**only £5.95**  
AVAILABLE FOR COMMODORE 64 · BBC SPECTRUM · VIC 20 · ATARI  
ORIC AND NOW ELECTRON VERSION

HUGE RANGE OF SOFTWARE & BOOKS FOR BBC, ELECTRON, SPECTRUM,  
COMMODORE 64, VIC 20, ORIC, DRAGON, MEMOTECH & ZX81.

Mail Order to Evesham Shop please.  
All prices inclusive. Goods sent anywhere.  
Cheque, PO, Bank Draft or phone your card number.



**MICRO CENTRE**  
BRIDGE STREET  
EVESHAM  
WORCHESTERSHIRE  
Tel: 0386 49641

**MICRO CENTRE**  
1756 PERSHORE ROAD  
COTTERIDGE  
BIRMINGHAM  
Tel: 021-458 4564



48K SPECTRUM £5.50  
COMMODORE 64 £6.50



48K SPECTRUM £5.50



48K SPECTRUM £5.50  
BBC MODEL B £6.50



48K SPECTRUM £5.50



48K SPECTRUM £5.50



AVAILABLE FROM LEADING DEALERS EVERYWHERE

OR DIRECT FROM  
Incentive Software Ltd, 54 London St,  
Reading RG1 4SQ (0734) 591678

**commodore 64**

**BEACH-HEAD**

Available post free from:

**MILES BETTER SOFTWARE**  
221 CANNOCK ROAD  
CHADSMOOR  
CANNOCK, STAFFS  
(05435) 3577

CASSETTE  
VERSION

£9

DISC  
VERSION

£12

Phone for catalogue  
of TOP 64 SOFTWARE

THE



RUN

IS HERE

FOR 48K SPECTRUM & COMMODORE 64

**LOOK**  
**EX-DEMONSTRATOR'S**  
**AND PARTLY USED**

**BBC B's from £199.98**  
**COMMODORE 64's from £105.00**  
**SINCLAIR 16K ZX from £49.50**  
**SINCLAIR 48K ZX from £60.00**

**OTHER MODELS AVAILABLE**

**PRICES INCLUDE P&P + VAT**

**WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR CLEAN COMPUTERS**

For further information:  
**BRITSALES, TAO HOUSE**  
**9 TAVISTOCK ROAD, LONDON E18**  
**Telephone 989 2705**  
**MAIL ORDER ONLY**

## SPECTRUM 16/48K MACHINE CODE FOR BEGINNERS

This program, together with the free accompanying book, will enable the **ABSOLUTE BEGINNER** to easily understand the principles of machine-code programming.

The program simulates a microprocessor and features an extremely high quality display illustrating registers, flags, stack, program counter, memory and output. The book introduces instructions with short teaching programs which are typed in and then run. You then watch the program running as **slowly as you wish**. The book and program together will help you to make a successful start in understanding machine code programming and you will be in an excellent position to begin further study with a standard text book and full assembler. **PRICE £7.95**

"Machine Code for Beginners" is available from larger branches of Boots and good computer shops. You may also order direct from us by sending a cheque, P.O., or your Access number. Access orders may be placed by phone.

Please send "MACHINE CODE FOR BEGINNERS" Cost  
Name ..... £ 7.95  
Address ..... P&P .50  
Total £ 8.45

Access Number (if applicable)



## ANNE SINCLAIR MAIL ORDER

	Our Price inc VAT		Our Price inc VAT
<b>ZX81 (16K)</b>		Star Fighter .....	6.99
Flight Simulator NEW! .....	4.95	Moneybox (H.Finance) NEW! .....	8.99
Krazy Kong .....	3.50		
Kongs Revenge .....	3.50	<b>VIC 20</b>	
49er .....	5.50	Snooker (3K) .....	7.90
Black Crystal .....	6.99	Arcadia .....	4.90
Sea Wolf .....	3.50	Sargon Chess II (Rom) .....	8.90
		Cosmic Commando (16K) .....	5.50
<b>SPECTRUM</b>		Frogun .....	4.95
Zig Zag (48K) NEW! .....	5.25	Cosmic Jailbreak (Rom) .....	8.90
Blue Thunder .....	4.99	Gorf (Rom) .....	8.90
Passt .....	4.99	JetPac (8K) .....	4.90
Trans Am .....	4.99		
Atic Atac .....	4.99	<b>COMMODORE 64</b>	
Codenamed Mat .....	5.99	Le Manis (Rom) .....	8.99
Flight Simulation (48K) .....	6.95	Sea Wolf (Rom) .....	8.99
Master Chess .....	5.95	Falcon Patrol .....	5.99
Bugaboo The Flea .....	5.90	Hunchback .....	5.99
		Twin Kingdom Valley .....	8.50
<b>BBC MODEL 'B'</b>		Alley Cat .....	6.95
Chuckie Egg .....	6.99	Purple Turtles .....	6.99
Hunchback .....	6.50	Siren City .....	5.99
Hobbit .....	11.50	Moby Dick .....	6.90
747 Flight Simulation .....	7.99		
Twin Kingdom Valley .....	7.99	<b>ELECTRON</b>	
Cylon Attack .....	6.99	Snapper .....	8.25
Snooker .....	7.99	Monsters .....	8.25
Castle of Riddles .....	8.95	Chess .....	6.99
		Pharaohs .....	6.99
<b>DRAGON 32/64</b>		Kamakazi .....	6.99
Flight Simulator .....	6.99	Dare Devil Dennis .....	6.99
Jump Jet .....	6.99	Roman Empire .....	6.99

SOFTWARE FOR ORIC, COLOUR GENIE, VIDEO GENIE, ATARI, MEMOTECH  
ALSO STOCKED

OVER 700 TITLES STOCKED

Add 35p p&p for games and £4 Insured Carriage for Computers and send  
Cheque/PO or SAE for full lists (State requirement) to:

**ANNE SINCLAIR MAIL ORDER**

6 FARM WAY, NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX

## JLC DATA DUPLICATION

### CASSETTES — DISCS — EPROMS

- ★ 7 YEARS DATA EXPERIENCE
- ★ HIGH LEVEL OF SECURITY
- ★ NORMALLY NO MASTERING FEE
- ★ NORMALLY 7-10 DAY TURNAROUND
- ★ 24 HOUR TURNAROUND SUPERFAST SERVICE IF REQUIRED

Cassette Duplication — for most micros.

Disc Duplication — 35, 40, 80 track S/S, D/S, S/D, D/D.

Eprom Duplication — most types.

All data verified.

Blank Cassettes, Discs, Eproms — bulk sales only.

Blank Labels — most colours — bulk sales only.

Labels in sheets or rolls.

### ★ NEW SERVICE ★

Letter-heads and forms in rolls or fanfold for computer printing.

Telephone: (0226) 87707 24 hours  
7 days a week

Enquiries and accounts to:  
**JLC DATA, 49 CASTLE STREET, BARNSELY,  
SOUTH YORKSHIRE S70 1NT**

In the interests of security, callers without appointments or proof  
of company status will not be seen.

# A Penny For Your Thoughts

Actually MicroQuest offers you  
rather more than a penny.

£1,000 to be precise, if you can  
come up with an idea for an innovative  
and original use of microelectronics.

MicroQuest is organised jointly by  
Williams & Glyn's Bank and MAP, the  
Department of Trade and Industry's  
programme to encourage the  
application of microelectronics. The  
competition aims to encourage young  
people to take an active part in the  
development of British industry and  
business.

#### WHO CAN ENTER?

MicroQuest is open to everyone  
between the ages of 16 and 21, and is  
divided into two categories. The first is  
a general category allowing entries  
from anyone between 16 and 21, and  
the second dealing with those over 16  
in secondary education.

We require entrants to MicroQuest,  
to submit a 2,500 word report,  
identifying a new use for  
microelectronics and explaining how it  
could be implemented.

The applications can be literally for  
anything from musical instruments to  
control systems for mining machinery.  
The idea of the competition is to  
produce applications that will improve  
and develop original products or  
processes. It is important, however,  
that you keep in mind that the  
applications must be practical and

therefore realistic in terms of cost.

The report itself should give us a  
clear description of the area where you  
see the application being made, and  
what will be the benefits of the  
application. If you wish to illustrate  
your report, make sure that all your  
designs/illustrations are on A4 paper  
and that there are no more than  
6 of them. When you send in  
your report it should include a  
summary of about 300 words of  
its contents.

The prizes for the general  
category will be a first prize of £1,000,  
with runners-up receiving prizes of  
£500 and £250. The schools category  
will have a first prize for the winner's  
school of £500 of computer equipment  
of its own choice, plus a cash prize of  
£150 for the winner. The runners-up  
will receive £100 and £50.

#### HOW TO ENTER

Simply tear off and complete the  
attached entry form and submit it with  
your report, which should also include  
a 300 word summary and any designs  
you have produced. The completed  
application form should be signed by  
your employer, teacher or supervisor.

Send the completed form to:  
"MicroQuest", Williams & Glyn's Bank,  
20 Birchin Lane, London EC3

But hurry. Entries for the  
competition close on the 30th June  
1984.

## MICROQUEST APPLICATION FORM

Complete this form, which  
should be signed by a  
representative of your employers'  
company, or your training officer  
or teacher, and send it with your  
report and a 300 word summary,

to:  
"MicroQuest",  
Williams & Glyn's Bank,  
20 Birchin Lane, London EC3

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

NAME OF APPLICANT

AGE

DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

NAME OF COMPANY/COLLEGE

NATURE OF COMPANY BUSINESS (if applicable)

SIGNATURE OF ENTRANT

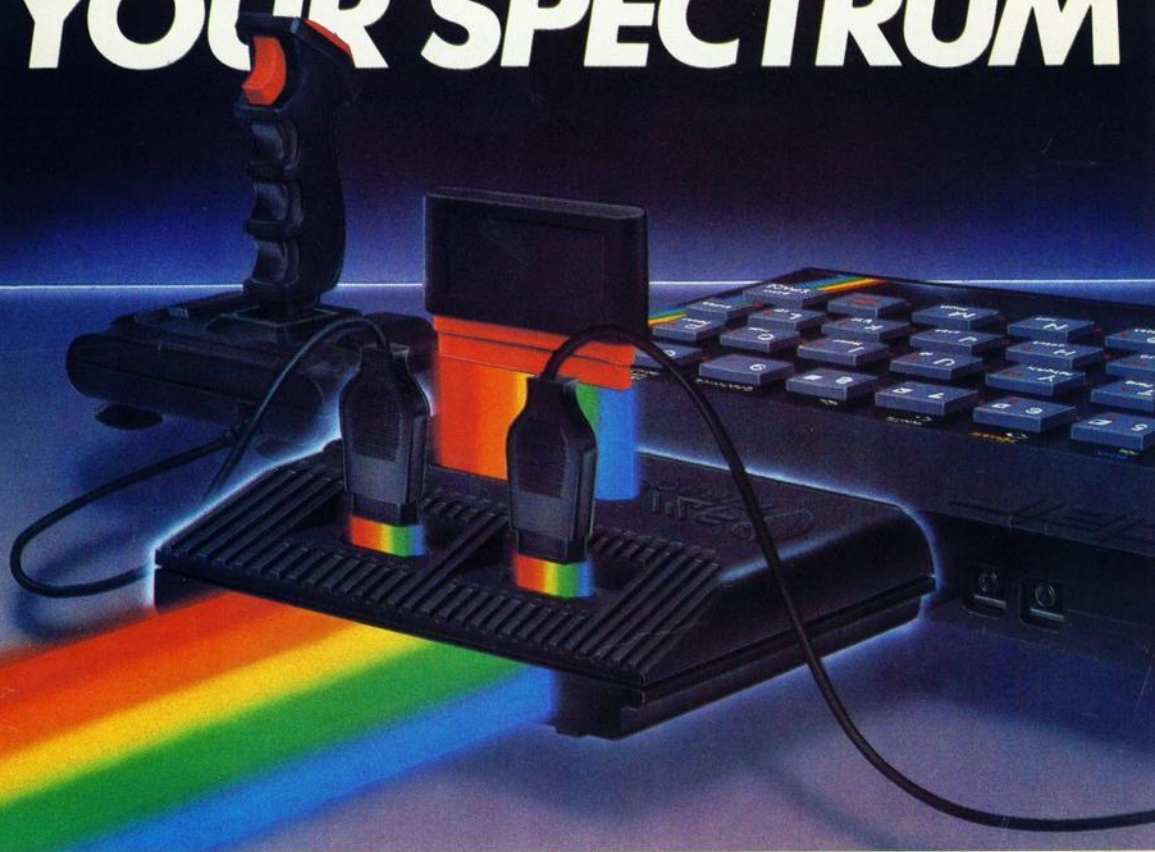
I, the undersigned, confirm that this application is supported by  
(Name of Company or Training Supervisor)

SIGNATURE

POSITION IN COMPANY/COLLEGE



# TURBO CHARGE YOUR SPECTRUM



## Outperforms any Spectrum interface

The unique Turbo interface from Ram gives you all these features – and more – in one unit:

- \* A variety of interfaces including: Rom cartridges, two 9-way D plugs for standard joysticks, PLUS full expansion bus at rear.
- \* Compatible with Kempston and Protek protocols.
- \* Works with latest Quickshot Mk II auto rapid-fire joysticks!
- \* Choice of Rom cartridge or tape cassette software.
- \* Instant program loading with cartridge software.
- \* Built-in power safety device – unique to Ram Turbo.
- \* Full one year guarantee.
- \* Immediate availability – 24 Hr despatch on receipt of P.O./ credit card details (cheques – seven days).
- \* Incredible value – only £22.95.

So don't wait around – simply complete the coupon and send it to us today.

Or call our credit card hot line on 02514 25252. (Access and Visa welcome).

Ram Electronics (Fleet) Ltd, 106 Fleet Road, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8PA.

Please send me:

\_\_\_\_\_ Spectrum Turbo Interface(s) at £22.95  
+ £1 p+p (overseas orders £3 p+p)

\_\_\_\_\_ Quickshot II Joystick(s) at £9.95  
(Only when purchased with Turbo – normally £12.95 + £1 p+p)

I enclose cheque/postal order or charge my Access/Visa for: £ \_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

To: Ram Electronics (Fleet) Ltd, 106 Fleet Road, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8PA.

24 Hr  
despatch for  
credit cards and  
postal orders



Trade and export enquiries welcome.



# Key to the QL

**John Cochrane** kicks off a new page for QL owners with first impressions and a look at the SuperBasic Rom

My first impression of the QL was that it looked just like the photos. Not surprising perhaps but it left me a little at a loss for what to do next.

Without an up-to-date manual I felt a bit hamstrung, so one of the first things I did was to Peek through the Rom to find the keywords available. This proved to be very useful and I have listed most of them below. This list will continue next week.

SuperBasic is by no means complete yet, and may well change as time goes by — this is presumably why no manuals were sent out with the machines. However, it seems unlikely that major revisions will be made at this late stage so the list given below should not prove too unreliable. The program which I used to obtain the commands is as follows:

```
100 BAUD 9600

110 OPEN #5;"SER1"

120 FOR N=15050 TO 15352,17161 TO 17216,19980
    TO 20050,

26980 TO 27950,32210 TO 32240,34276 TO 34450

130 M=PEEK(N)

140 SELECT M=32 TO 128:PRINT #5;CHR$(M);

150 END FOR N

160 STOP
```

Notice that I am showing off by using the very useful extended versions of *For*, the short version of *Select*, and the SuperBasic terminator *End For N*. The program would work perfectly happily with conventional Basic statements, but I enjoy exercising new-found programming skills. The number ranges in Line 120 refer to blocks of Rom which I had previously noted as containing things of interest, such as error messages and commands, by listing through the whole Rom to screen. Lines 100 and 110 set up RS-232 Port 1 for output to the printer at a baud rate of 9600. Watch out for Channel 5, however; I used it almost continuously for output to the printer but I think that it is usually used for the sound channel. You can use another number. Line 140 restricts print-out to those characters which may be of interest, ignoring unprintable characters.

The end result of this is a somewhat jumbled listing of words and miscellaneous

characters. The list below gives my interpretation of that listing. I have left out those "words" which appear most unlikely and have marked those which I am most unsure of. I have guessed the function of many of the keywords so watch out for changes.

ABS (a) — Returns absolute value of a.  
 ARC (x,y,a,b,c) — Draws a part of a circle, I couldn't deduce what the last three parameters did.  
 ARC\_R — A version of Arc using relative co-ordinates?  
 AUTO n,m — Allows automatic generation of line numbers from Line n in steps of m.  
 BAUD n — Sets baud rate n for use with serial ports.  
 BECOMES n — Sets baud rate n for use with serial ports.  
 BECOMES — Looks interesting but I couldn't get it to do anything.  
 BEEP a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h — Sound. Can leave off most of the parameters for simple sounds.  
 BEEPING — Don't know. Tests to see if sound still being generated?

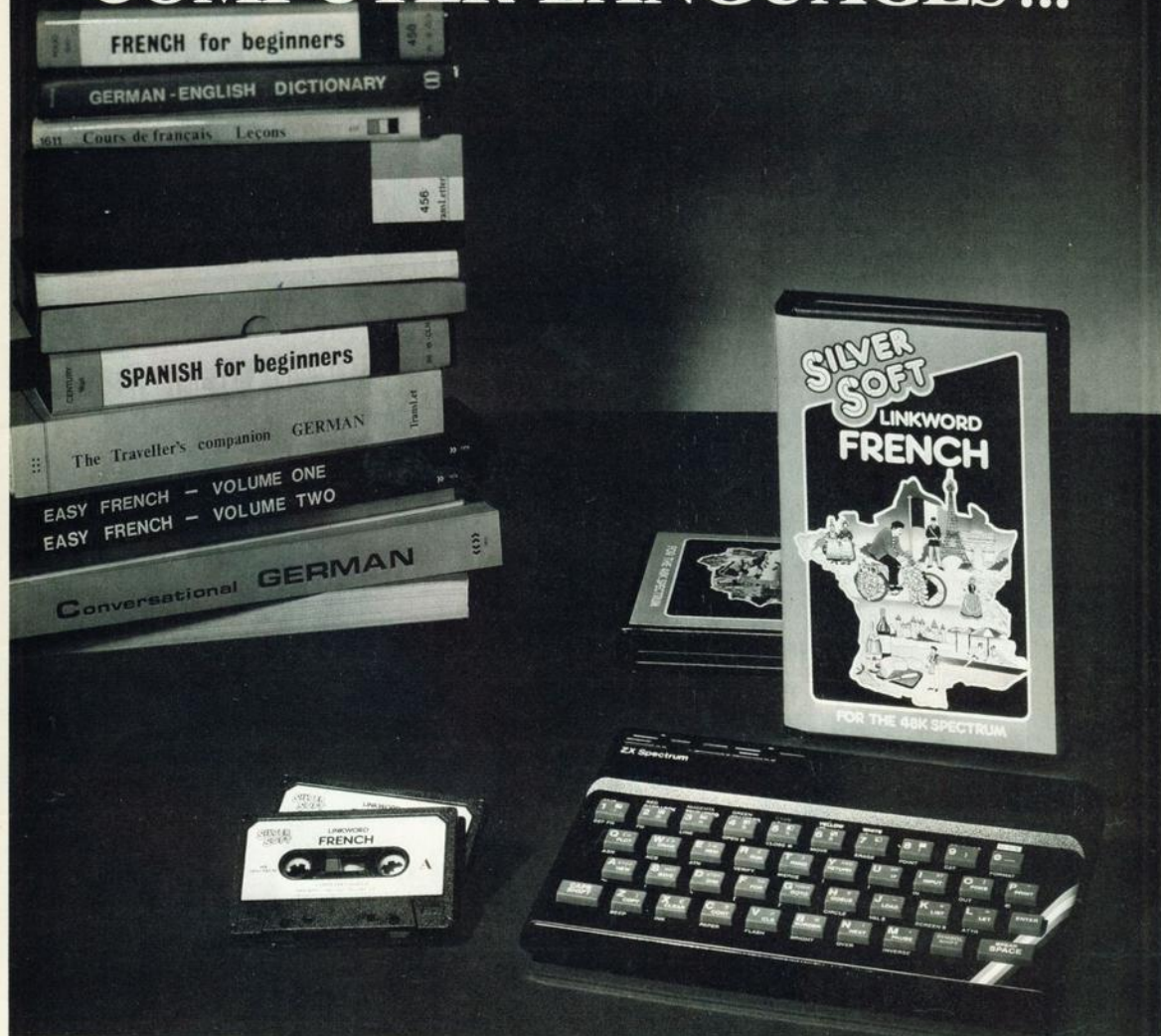
BLOCK n,x,y,w,h — Fill block in window n defined by width and height at x,y.  
 BOOT, MDV1\_\_BOOT — Load and run program BOOT from Microdrive 1.  
 BORDER n,w,s — Sets up a border around window n of width w, colour determined by s.  
 CALL n — Calls a machine code subroutine at memory location n.  
 CHR\$(n) — Gives the strong with code n.  
 CIRCLE x,y,r — Draws a circle at centre x,y of radius r. May allow additional parameters e,a for eccentricity (0 to 1) at an angle a.  
 CIRCLE\_R — Similar to CIRCLE but using relative co-ordinates?  
 CLEAR n — Clears the variable space. It accepts n but I don't know what it does.  
 CLOSE #n — closes channel n.  
 CLS n — Clears window n.  
 CODE (a\$) — Gives the Ascii code of the first character of a\$.  
 CONTINUE — Resumes program running after break.  
 COPY a TO b — Copies a named set of data from one channel to another.  
 COPY\_N — Don't know.  
 COS (a) — Trig.  
 ACOS (n) — Trig.  
 COT (a) — Trig.  
 ACOT (n) — Trig.

CSIZE w,h — Sets display character height and width. I couldn't get this to work.  
 CURSOR n,x,y — Re-positions the print location in window n.  
 DATE — Gives stored date and time. Rumoured to be for the chop.  
 DATES — ?  
 ADATE — ?  
 SDATE d,m,y,h,m,s — Resets internal clock.  
 DATA — Used to store variables-data within a program (See Read).  
 DAY\$(n) — Returns a day of the week corresponding to n.  
 DEFine FuNction, DEFine PROCEDURE — Start of SuperBasic function or procedure.  
 DEG — Converts radians to degrees?  
 DELETE — Used for deleting files on a Microdrive cartridge.  
 DIM — For dimensioning arrays.  
 DIR "MDVn\_" — Lists the files on Microdrive n.  
 DIV — Integer divide. (I'm suspicious that integers are not implemented fully, if at all. I didn't have time to check).  
 DLIN — Deletes program lines. Can delete single lines or blocks of lines.  
 EDIT n — Fetches line n for editing.  
 ELLIPSE x,y,r — May have more parameters, seems to work as Circle.  
 ELLIPSE\_R — Relative co-ords?  
 ELSE — Used in long form of If.  
 END FOR, END DEFine, END SELECT — Used as a terminator.  
 EOF — Used to send end of file marker to a given channel?  
 ERROR — Probably not implemented yet, usually would expect this to be used with On Error Goto, etc.  
 EXEC — To load a sequence of programs and run them in parallel.  
 EXEC\_W — As EXEC but waits for 1st program to finish before returning to the command level.  
 SEXECS — Used to save Exec to Microdrive?  
 EXIT — To exit a program construct such as a Repeat loop.  
 EXP (n) — Exponential.  
 FILL — Presumably fills a shape with colour. I couldn't get any response.  
 FILLSS — ?  
 FLASH — Causes colour flashing in low-resolution mode.  
 FOR n = — Sets up start of loop with variable n taking values defined by the remainder of the line. These can be single values separated by commas and/or a range of values to be stepped through.  
 FORMAT — For setting up blank Microdrive cartridges for the storage of programs and data.  
 GOTO n — Transfer to line n of a program (frowned on by SuperBasic).  
 GOSUB n — Start subroutine at Line n.  
 HRESPR — If this is a command I don't know what it may do. I was hoping that it might allow a high-resolution copy of a window to be sent to a printer but I couldn't get it to do this.  
 INK n — Sets foreground colour.  
 INKEY\$ — Returns the character last pressed at the keyboard (or from some other channel). Watch out for this one, the keyboard works through a buffer and INKEY\$ gets data from the buffer. Thus if several keys are pressed between INKEY\$ the value returned will be the first key pressed and so on until the buffer is empty, not the current key being pressed (See Keyrow).  
 INT (n) — Truncates n to leave an integer.  
 INSTREN — Not at all sure if this is a valid keyword.  
 INPUT — Allows input of data from a specified channel or the keyboard.  
 KEYROW (n) — The keyboard is set up as "rows" of eight keys, this command returns a number indicating the keys pressed in row n. Does not work through the buffer and so is useful for real-time applications.  
 LBYTES — Load machine-code from microdrive?  
 LEN (a\$) — Length of a string.  
 LET — Start of a Basic assignment (optional).  
 LINE x,y TO x,y — Draws a line from one point to another.  
 LINE\_R — A relative version of Line?  
 LIST — Lists program lines.

continued next week



# COMPUTER LANGUAGES...



Imagine a ferret in a hardware shop

Not something you'd forget. That's how the Linkword System helps you remember that the Spanish for "hardware shop" is "ferreteria".

You'll remember that the French for "fish" is "poisson" by imagining poisoning your pet fish.

Using Linkword you'll learn over 350 words in only 10 hours, that's a quarter of the time it would normally take. Enough for holidays, business trips abroad or help with homework. Start from scratch, and it's amazing how quickly you learn a basic grammar and vocabulary.

Linkword courses in French, German and Spanish are now available from Silversoft for the 48K Spectrum home computer, and there are more to come soon.

They're the biggest thing in languages since the Tower of Babel.

To Silversoft Ltd, London House, 271/273 King St, London W6 9LZ. Tel: 01-748 4125

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ French \_\_\_\_\_ German \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish Linkword courses at £12.95 each plus 50p P&P.

I enclose a cheque/PO for £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to Silversoft Ltd, or please debit my Access card

No \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**SILVER  
SOFT**



# ANIROG

House Of  
Usher

ICE  
HUNTER

**3 NEW  
TURBO 64  
GAMES  
£6.95  
EACH**

## House of Usher

Dare you enter the House of Usher. Behind each locked door of this nine room mansion a different style of arcade action awaits you.

## Ice Hunter

Ice hunter needs special ice blocks to build an igloo unaffected by the arctic sun. He has found the source of the blocks in a multi level cavern, but can he outwit the grim inhabitants — the dragons — sea lions and vicious birds and float the blocks down the river to construct his dream home. Six levels and two player option.

PETCH

## Petch

The wonder penguin is engaged in a desperate search for diamonds hidden in a maze of ice cubes, harassed and chased by his arch enemies Snowball and Snowbox. His chances of survival are slim. Six levels of skill with two player option.

**Also available on Disk at £9.95**

TRADE ENQUIRIES: ANIROG SOFTWARE LTD. 29 WEST HILL DARTFORD KENT (0322) 92513/8  
MAIL ORDER: 8 HIGH STREET HORLEY SURREY 24 HOUR CREDIT CARD SALES HORLEY (02934) 6083  
PAYMENT BY CHEQUE P.O. ACCESS/VISA 50p POSTAGE & PACKAGING £2.00 OVERSEAS



# HIRE MONSTER SOFTWARE CLUB HIRE

## FREE MEMBERSHIP

Yes FREE membership — Buy just one tape from those listed below and you will automatically become a full life member of The Monster Software Club.

Benefits of membership include:

- ★ HIRE software at low cost. (90+ titles available for hire)
- ★ BUY software at 10% discount
- ★ Software by return of post.
- ★ All the latest titles.

Buy just one tape from the following:

BUZZARD BAIT .....	9.95	BLOCHHEAD .....	7.95
PEDRO .....	5.50	JUNIORS REVENGE .....	7.95
CHUCKIE EGG .....	7.90	LUNAR ROVER PATROL .....	7.95
3D SPACE WAR .....	7.95	CAVE FIGHTER .....	7.95
EIGHTBALL .....	7.95	BONKA .....	7.95
EIGHTBALL .....	7.95	DROIDS .....	7.95
THE KING .....	7.95	PETTIGREWS DIARY .....	7.95
FROGGER .....	7.95	AND ALL BECAUSE .....	7.95
DANGER RANGER .....	7.95	CUTHBERT GOES .....	7.95
DRAGON HAWK .....	7.95	WALKABOUT .....	7.95
RACERBALL .....	7.95		

Send Cheque/PO to:

## MICROBYTE COMPUTER SHOP

19A Lower Warrigate  
Wakefield WF1 1SA

Hurry! This offer is for a limited period only.

## BUSINESS/PROGRAMMING/EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

### COMMODORE 64

Visawrite W.P.	(Disk)	69.95	Invoicing	(Disk)	22.00
Easyscript W.P.	(Disk)	65.00	Stock Control	(Disk)	22.00
Simons Basic	(Rom)	45.00	Accounts Payable	(Disk)	22.00
Ultra Basic	(Cass)	19.95	Purchasing	(Disk)	22.00
Graphics Designer	(Cass)	17.95	Order Processing	(Disk)	22.00
Stock File	(Disk)	32.00	Mailing System	(Disk)	22.00
The Auto Dealer	(Disk)	32.00	Investat	(Cass)	27.00
Practical 64	(Disk)	39.95	Data Manager	(Disk)	28.00
Checkbook Manager	(Disk)	12.95	Sales Ledger	(Disk)	28.00
Simple Accounts	(Cass)	21.00	Purchase Ledger	(Disk)	28.00
Screen Graphics	(Disk)	12.95	Cashbook	(Cass)	49.95
Kuma Basic B.C.	(Rom)	45.00	Easyleader	(Cass)	17.25
Super Disc Utility	(Disk)	11.50	Mailist	(Cass)	17.25
Investat	(Cass)	27.00	Beepplot	(Cass)	17.25
Superbase 64	(Disk)	89.99	Wordwise W.P.	(Rom)	42.50
Transact B Keep	(Disk)	27.00	Graphics Rom	(Rom)	29.95
Catalog 64	(Cass)	12.95	Disc Doctor	(Rom)	29.95
DFM Database	(Cass)	21.00	Maths 'O' Level	(Cass)	6.95
Home Accts Manager	(Cass)	12.95	Biology 'O' Level	(Cass)	6.95
64 Doctor	(Disk)	15.95	Chemistry 'O' Level	(Cass)	6.95
Home Inventory	(Cass)	9.95	Physics 'O' Level	(Cass)	6.95
Home Accountant	(Disk)	49.95	World Geography	(Cass)	5.90
PaperClip W.P.	(Disk)	79.95	Wordspell (Y Child)	(Cass)	7.99
The Collector	(Disk)	32.00	Fairshare (Y Child)	(Cass)	7.99
ChartPac 64	(Disk)	22.00	Number Rally (Y Child)	(Cass)	5.90
Purchase Ledger	(Disk)	22.50	Number Skills 0-999	(Cass)	7.99
Sales Ledger	(Disk)	22.50			
The Roundman	(Disk)	32.00			
The Clients File	(Disk)	32.00			
Physics 'O' Level	(Cass)	6.99			
Biology 'O' Level	(Cass)	6.99			
Chemistry 'O' Level	(Cass)	6.99			
WordPower	(Cass)	8.99			
Geography	(Cass)	8.99			
History	(Cass)	8.99			
MicroAddition	(Disk)	20.00			
MicroSubtraction	(Disk)	20.00			
MicroDivision	(Disk)	20.00			
MicroMultiply	(Disk)	20.00			

### BBC MODEL 'B'

Cashbook Accts	(Cass)	59.95			
			<b>SPECTRUM 48K</b>		
			'O' Level Geometry	(Cass)	5.50
			Maths 1	(Cass)	7.99
			Maths 2	(Cass)	7.99
			Word Power	(Cass)	8.99
			Tense French	(Cass)	8.99
			Chemistry	(Cass)	7.99
			Music	(Cass)	5.50
			Biology 'O' Level	(Cass)	5.50
			Maths 'O' Level	(Cass)	5.50
			Learning to Read 1	(Cass)	6.99
			Learning to Read 2	(Cass)	6.99
			Learning to Read 3	(Cass)	6.99
			Tasword Two W.P.	(Cass)	12.95

Send cheque/PO with order stating machine and item(s) required and add .35p per program for post and packing. Allow 7/10 days for delivery.

## ANNE SINCLAIR LIMITED

(Mail Order Software Services)  
6 FARM WAY, NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX

# BEGINNERS COURSES IN BASIC

DR  
WATSON  
series

BBC Beginners BASIC

BBC Advanced BASIC

64 Beginners BASIC

SPECTRUM Beginners BASIC

## £10.50 BOOK & TAPE COURSE

These project based courses guide you step by step through BASIC, developing games and utilities using progressively more complex BASIC commands and structures. All this software is provided on tape so you can get a taste of the programs first and then dissect and understand them whilst working along with the detailed explanations given in the book.

As each new command is encountered, it is given a careful explanation and is demonstrated by a short example program. Remember — when you get stuck, there is no one you can ask, and these courses have been written with this in mind.

Each course is written by an expert on the specific machine and explains its special features to the full. Thus while each course follows the same successful formula, the one you buy is written for YOUR machine.



HONEYFOLD

## HONEYFOLD SOFTWARE LTD

Standfast House  
Bath Place  
High Street, Barnet  
London EN5 1ED

Tel: 01-441 4130

Courses are available from:

W.H. Smiths, BOOTS, SPECTRUM stores and all good computer shops and many good bookshops.



# Filed in sequence

**Adrian Warman demonstrates a utility program that will resequence a Basic text file**

Many of the commercial Assembler programs on the market (such as the excellent 'Mikro' cartridge) work in a fashion whereby they treat the source code (ie, the machine-code mnemonics) entered by the programmer as a form of Basic program. In other words, each instruction has a line number, and a corresponding program statement on that line. (Naturally, such source codes cannot be run in the normal fashion!)

During the course of using such programs, I have often found that I wish to insert additional lines in between the source instructions already present. Even when using the excellent principle of having lines with increments of 10 between each consecutive line, the addition of extra lines of source code mean that the gaps often become impossibly small, ultimately requiring a 'manual resequencing' to give more space. (Why not put more instructions on to the same line? Because it makes already difficult code even harder to read and understand.)

The primary purpose of this routine is to provide a utility program that will resequence an entire Basic text file for you. This is equivalent to 'renumbering' a Basic program, but note that *Goto's* and *Gosub's* are not altered! The utility provided (referred to as *RESEQ* from now on) is called by jumping directly into machine code supplies the following two pieces of information:

- 1) The first line number to be used in the text file.
- 2) The 'step' between each subsequent line.

Thus, an example of using *RESEQ* would be:

```
SYS 49152,1000,20
```

This will cause the *RESEQ* program to replace the old line numbers with the sequence:

```
1000...
1020...
1040...
```

... and so on.

Note that in the listings provided, the 'step size' between lines is restricted to the range 1 to 255, although modification is extremely easy to achieve.

Two listings are provided, one is the Assembly listing, which is referred to in the following program description, and the other is a Basic loader program.

Note that the program is completely relocatable. At present (using the supplied Basic loader), the program will be stored from location 49152. To alter this value to (say) the cassette buffer, change line 1040

of the Basic loader to read:

```
1040 ADDRESS=828
```

Be careful when doing this that the program will not be overwritten in the course of using the machine. For example, if you move the program to the cassette buffer, and then use the cassette in any way, the program would be corrupted, almost certainly producing a 'crash' when next used.

## Program Notes

(Please refer to the assembly listing while following the program description.)

The whole key to the program resides in the fact that the user must be able to transfer information to the *rq* routine. This information consists of the new number for the first line in the file, and the increment between line numbers in the subsequent lines.

1130-1150 These three lines perform a simple but vital task. Upon entry to the routine (after the *SYS* command), there will be a system variable which is pointing to the first character after the *sys* address. Thus, in this case, the pointer is pointing to a 'comma' character.

Line 1130 checks to ensure that the comma is present. This is a Rom routine, with the advantage that if a comma is not found, a 'syntax error' message will be produced automatically.

Line 1140 searches for, and evaluates, any expression following the comma just located using line 1130. This is a very powerful Rom routine, in that any expression can be used, including variables or constants. The result of the evaluation is left in an area of system variables called 'Floating Point Accumulator 1'. Any illegal character in the expression will cause a suitable system error message.

Line 1150 uses a Rom routine that converts the value in the F.P. Accumulator 1 into a 2-byte integer. If the number will not fit, an error message will be produced. Upon returning from this routine, A has the high byte, and Y has the low byte.

The integer value in A and Y represents the line number to be given to the first line in the

text file. Line numbers cannot exceed 63999, so a check is made to see if the line number is too large (lines 1160-1170). If the value is too big, then a jump is made to artificially force an error message. If the line number is valid, then it is stored in two unused zero-page locations, \$FB and \$FC.

1230-1320 These lines search for, validate and store the increment between lines. Lines 1230-1240 release a location in zero page by preserving its value on the stack. Lines 1250-1270 search for the increment number, which must follow a comma character. Note that these lines are identical to lines 1130-1150. Lines 1280-1290 ensure that the increment is not larger than 255. Lines 1300-1320 ensure that the increment is not zero, and then store the valid increment in zero page location \$14.

1360-1390 These lines store the address in memory of the start of the first line in the Basic text area. Usually, this is \$0801 (which is assumed to be the case here); alternatively, the address can be found from the vector stored at \$2B and \$2C — 'Start of Basic'.

1460-1500 These lines check to see if there is indeed a line in which to change the line number. If there is no line, then the CBM Operating System places two O's where the line number would be expected. Using the vector at \$FD and \$FE, a check is made to see if these bytes are both zero, if so, then the job is completed. Note that this check is performed before attempting to assign the new line number, to prevent a non-existent line being created.

1550-1600 The old line number is replaced by the new line number (which is the value stored in \$FB and \$FC).

1640-1700 The next line number is calculated by adding the increment (stored at \$14) to the old line number that has just been used.

1740-1810 The Operating System also includes, within each line of text, a pointer to the start address of the next line in memory. This value is retrieved from the current line, and placed in \$FD and \$FE, thus moving the vector to the next line.

1850-1860 Go around and check to see if this is the end of the program file.

1900-1920 If (in lines 1460-1500) no next line was found, the computer jumps to these instructions. The value which was in location \$14 had been placed onto the start for storage, so it is now restored, and a return made back to Basic.

1980 If any illegal value is entered for the line number, or for the line increment, a jump is made to this instruction, which jumps directly into the Basic Roms, to give an error message, and then return to Basic.

```

1000 REM BASIC LOADER          ENCR PROGRAM.
1010 :
1020 REM BY A. WARMAN
1030 :
1040 ADDRESS=49152
1050 SUM=0
1060 :
1070 FOR LOC=ADDRESS TO ADDRESS+100
1080 READ DATUM
1090 POKE LOC,DATUM
1100 SUM=SUM+DATUM
1110 NEXT LOC
1120 :
1130 IF SUM>14991 THEN PRINT "SUM ERROR."
1140 STOP
1150 :
1160 DATA 32,253,174, 32,138,173, 32,247
1170 DATA 183,201,250,176, 85,132,251,133
1180 DATA 252,165, 20, 72, 32,253,174, 32
1190 DATA 138,173, 32,247,183,201, 0,208
1200 DATA 65,192, 0,240, 61,132, 20,169
1210 DATA 1,133,253,169, 8,133,254,160
1220 DATA 0,177,253,200, 17,253,240, 38
1230 DATA 200,165,251,145,253,200,165,252
1240 DATA 145,253,145,251, 24,101, 20,133
1250 DATA 251,165,252,105, 0,133,252,136
1260 DATA 136,177,253,170,136,177,253,133
1270 DATA 253,134,254, 24,144,209,104,133
1280 DATA 20, 96, 76, 72,178

```



# Commodore 64

```

1000 033C      ! RESEQUENCER PROGRAM.
1010 033C      !
1020 033C      ! ACTIVATE BY 'SYS 49152,X,Y',
1030 033C      ! WHERE X=START LINE NUMBER, AND
1040 033C      ! Y=STEP BETWEEN LINES.
1050 033C      !
1060 033C      ! IDENTIFY START OF PROGRAM.
1070 033C      !
1080 C000      **%C000
1090 C000      !
1100 C000      ! CALCULATE AND PRESERVE START LINE
1110 C000      ! NUMBER.
1120 C000      !
1130 C000 20FDAE START      JSR $AEFD
1140 C003 20BAAD      JSR $ADBA
1150 C006 20F7B7      JSR $B7F7
1160 C009 C9FA      CMP #$FA
1170 C00B B055      BCS BADVAL
1180 C00D 84FB      STY $FB
1190 C00F 85FC      STA $FC
1200 C011      !
1210 C011      ! CALCULATE AND FIND STEP NUMBER.
1220 C011      !
1230 C011 A514      LDA $14
1240 C013 4B      PHA
1250 C014 20FDAE      JSR $AEFD
1260 C017 20BAAD      JSR $ADBA
1270 C01A 20F7B7      JSR $B7F7
1280 C01D C900      CMP #$00
1290 C01F D041      BNE BADVAL
1300 C021 C000      CPY #$00
1310 C023 F03D      BEQ BADVAL
1320 C025 8414      STY $14
1330 C027      !
1340 C027      ! FIND START OF BASIC TEXT.
1350 C027      !
1360 C027 A901      LDA #$01
1370 C029 85FD      STA $FD
1380 C02B A908      LDA #$08
1390 C02D 85FE      STA $FE
1400 C02F      !
1410 C02F      !
1420 C02F      ! MAIN LOOP OF LINE RESEQUENCE.
1430 C02F      !
1440 C02F      ! FIRST TEST FOR END OF TEXT.
1450 C02F      !
1460 C02F A000 LOOP      LDY #$00
1470 C031 B1FD      LDA ($FD),Y
1480 C033 CB      INY

1490 C034 11FD      ORA ($FD),Y
1500 C036 F026      BEQ EXIT
1510 C038      !
1520 C038      ! NOT END OF TEXT, SO CHANGE THIS
1530 C038      ! LINE NUMBER.
1540 C038      !
1550 C038 CB      INY
1560 C039 A5FB      LDA $FB
1570 C03B 91FD      STA ($FD),Y
1580 C03D CB      INY
1590 C03E A5FC      LDA $FC
1600 C040 91FD      STA ($FD),Y
1610 C042      !
1620 C042      ! CALCULATE NEXT LINE.
1630 C042      !
1640 C042 A5FB      LDA $FB
1650 C044 18      CLC
1660 C045 6514      ADC $14
1670 C047 85FB      STA $FB
1680 C049 A5FC      LDA $FC
1690 C04B 6900      ADC #$00
1700 C04D 85FC      STA $FC
1710 C04F      !
1720 C04F      ! FIND START OF NEXT TEXT LINE.
1730 C04F      !
1740 C04F 8B      DEY
1750 C050 8B      DEY
1760 C051 B1FD      LDA ($FD),Y
1770 C053 AA      TAX
1780 C054 8B      DEY
1790 C055 B1FD      LDA ($FD),Y
1800 C057 85FD      STA $FD
1810 C059 86FE      STX $FE
1820 C05B      !
1830 C05B      ! GO AND MODIFY THE NEXT LINE.
1840 C05B      !
1850 C05B 18      CLC
1860 C05C 90D1      BCC LOOP
1870 C05E      !
1880 C05E      ! FINISH PROGRAM.
1890 C05E      !
1900 C05E 68      EXIT      PLA
1910 C05F 8514      STA $14
1920 C061 60      RTS
1930 C062      !
1940 C062      !
1950 C062      ! AN ILLEGAL VALUE WAS ENTERED, SO
1960 C062      ! PRODUCE ERROR MESSAGE.
1970 C062      !
1980 C062 4C48B2 BADVAL      JMP $B248

```

LABELS:

C062 BADVAL

C05E EXIT

C02F LOOP

C000 START



## SPECTRUM 48K HISTORICAL WARGAMING AUSTERLITZ

This game is a re-creation of Napoleons famous victory at Austerlitz. "You are Napoleon" The game is played on a physical map of the battlefield with counters representing the units which took part in the battle.

The computer provides a highly sophisticated opponent with 90% of the program written in machine code giving a maximum delay of only 4 seconds as the the computer decides its moves and capable of giving even the best of wargamers a serious challenge.

All the mechanics of wargaming, such as movement, combat, terrain effects, reports etc., are taken care of by the computer with the player issuing orders both at corps and divisional level.

The game is for one player only with 3 levels of difficulty and 4 opening strategies for the computer opponent to choose from giving a wide variation each time you play. Your choice of tactics is of course virtually unlimited with the computer reacting in an intelligent manner to them.

Due to the fact that having made its decisions the computer opponent must access the same game mechanics as the player and only has access to the same information as the player we therefore believe this program to be the first genuine computer opponent for wargamers written for the Spectrum and represents a significant breakthrough in this area of computer gaming.

**AUSTERLITZ** £11.50

also available:—

**PACIFIC WAR** £6.00

Cheques or Postal Orders to:—

**K W Software**

155 Ringinglow Rd., Sheffield S11 7PS

## THE SKY'S THE LIMIT WITH... **AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL** Try this absorbing game



**LIVE  
SITUATIONS  
TOTALLY  
COMPELLING**



By **HAMA SYSTEMS**  
For use with Sinclair ZX81 (16K RAM)

ON SALE AT MOST LEADING COMPUTER  
OUTLETS, OR BY MAIL ORDER FROM:  
SACKVILLE PLACE,  
44-48, MAGDALEN STREET, NORWICH.

**£6.95**

# Data to your Commodore and music to your ears

## THE ROTRONICS DR2301 AUDIO/DATA CASSETTE RECORDER

- Why should you need two cassette recorders just because you are a Commodore user?
- The ROTRONICS DR2301 has all the facilities you would expect of a quality audio recorder and also works perfectly with the VIC 20 and CBM 64 computers without any fiddly separate boxes or adaptors. Simply connect the DR2301 directly with your Commodore computer via the lead supplied and you are ready to start. The built-in interface circuitry ensures that SAVEing and LOADing is completely reliable - even when using commercially produced software. The DR2301 also allows the computer to sense when the PLAY key has been depressed.
- Additional features are auto-stop, tape counter, inbuilt microphone and foldaway carrying handle. The DR2301 is also compatible with the ZX81, Spectrum

and many other popular home computers.

- The DR2301 will take its power from the computer (Commodore only), mains adaptor (supplied) or internal batteries. Each unit carries a full 12 month guarantee.
- All this at a price which is a lot less than you would pay for a dedicated data recorder - just £34.95 (p & p £2.00). Send your order form to (no stamp required):

**SMT** SMT, FREEPOST, Greens Norton,  
Towcester, Northants. NN12 8BR.

VIC 20 and CBM 64 are registered trademarks of Commodore Business Machines



**£34.95**  
(p+p £2.00)

ORDER FORM  
Please send \_\_\_\_\_ Rotronics  
audio/data recorder(s) at £36.95 (inc.  
p & p) each. All prices inclusive of VAT.  
Please make cheques payable to SMT.  
Allow 28 days for delivery.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

PCW 24/5







# RUNESOFT PRESENT

Enter the realm of Dream and Paradox — Survive 150 locations on what is probably the most difficult task you've ever been set — If you can!



Help Yaw Ning to find SPOOF the magic dragon, despite the whole world being set against him. Poor Yaw — You'll probably die laughing.

Popular Computing Weekly (15:04:84): "Paradox looks, from a quick play and the complex maps I've been sent explaining it, like one of the most complicated adventures ever designed... addiction is probably ensured."

LOOK for the

RUNESOFT



Logo

★ ★ COMMODORE VERSIONS AVAILABLE SOON ★ ★  
RUNESOFT artwork by Nick Bibby

PARADOX, SPOOF and SPECTREALM (a strategy game for budding Emperors), for the Spectrum 48K computer, are available from selected shops nationwide at the following prices:

**PARADOX: £7.50; SPOOF: £7.50;  
SPECTREALM: £6.95**

In case of difficulty, ask your local stockist to contact his distributor, or send cheques/POs direct to:

## RUNESOFT

Charnwood House, 67 Lower Parliament St, Nottingham NG1 3BB. (Tel: 0602 (STD) 287667 & 271748)

## A great line up of 17 NEW titles... direct from CANADA

FOR ZX81, SPECTRUM, VIC 20, C64, ATARI

Just run your eyes over these new titles now available through "SOFTCHOICE LTD" the U.K. subsidiary of the well-known Canadian Software House INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING & SOFTWARE INC. Purchase with confidence superb EDUCATIONAL, UTILITY and GAMES SOFTWARE!

### EXCITING NEW GAMES FOR FAMILY FUN AND LEARNING FOR ZX81 AND SPECTRUM



**ADDING MACHINE**  
Additional facts for ages 5-9 yrs.  
For Spectrum, Cassette £6.95



**TAKE AWAY ZOO**  
Subtraction facts for ages 5-9 yrs.  
For Spectrum, Cassette £6.95



**TINY LOGO**  
The key to understanding real computer programming!  
For ZX81, Cassette £5.95



**SIGNALS & CODE**  
See and hear the letters and numbers in order! On demand, randomly, in messages, in score tests! For ZX81, Cassette £4.95



**WRATH OF KONG**  
Only great agility and cunning will outwit Kong - Climb quickly or Jane will perish!  
For ZX81 & Spectrum, Cassette £5.95



**SPEED SNAKE**  
Slither around mazes, 10 different mazes to challenge your skill! Deadly!  
For ZX81, Cassette £4.95



**MR MUNCHIE**  
Race through 3 mazes, avoid the Trolleys! Exciting action with graphics!  
For ZX81, Cassette £4.95

### CHILDRENS' & HOME EDUCATIONAL GAMES for the COMMODORE 64, ATARI 400/800 DISKS Only, at £14.95 each incl.



**THE ALPHABET FACTORY**  
Two arcade-style games that teach children the alphabet! C64 + Atari, Ages 3-8 years.



**MATCH UP**  
Three high interest games make learning to read fun! C64 only, Ages 3-8 years.



**THE WORLD BIRD**  
Three different games each designed to increase a child's reading vocabulary! C64 only, Ages 6-12 years.



**TIME ZONE**  
Two activity games that develop the needed language skills for successful reading! C64 only, Ages 6-12 years.



**BRIDGE**  
For all the family! Sharpen your skills with the computer's bidding! VIC 20, C64, ZX81, Cassette £9.50

### GREAT UTILITY AND BUSINESS SOFTWARE FOR ZX81, SPECTRUM, VIC 20, COMMODORE 64, ATARI



**FASTWORD**  
Fast, versatile and complete word processing package by Dr Pearson. For ZX81, Cassette £7.50



**FASTLOAD**  
Any programme up to 6 times faster than normal! By Dr G. Pearson. For ZX81, Cassette £7.50



**DIET**  
Gain control over your eating patterns. By Dr M. Minsky. For ZX81 & Spectrum, Cassette £5.95



**CALC-PRO**  
A great tool for home or business! complete financial spreadsheets & runs statistics programmes. VIC 20, Cassette £9.50, C64 Disk £14.95



**GRAPH-IT**  
An easy to use tool to produce graphical displays. For VIC 20, Cassette £9.50

**HOW TO ORDER. BY TELEPHONE (01) 431 2494**  
If you are a Barclaycard or Access holder, please telephone and give your Card No., Name, Address and item required for immediate despatch.

**BY POST.** To purchase any of the items listed above, simply fill in the coupon below, write your Name, Address, enclose your cheque or P.O. made payable to: SOFTCHOICE LTD and post to us.

Post to: **SOFTCHOICE LTD, 52 PLATTS LANE, LONDON NW3 7NT**

Please send me the following items:  
(Use separate sheet if space allocated not sufficient)

NO	TITLE	TOTAL COST
REQ		

I prefer to pay by ACCESS  
(Delete which ever is not applicable)

Card No.

Signature

Name

Address

Please allow 7 to 14 days for delivery.  
Card holders' address must be the same as coupon

I enclose my cheque/P.O. for £

PCL 2489

**SOFTCHOICE**

**SOFTCHOICE LTD.**  
52 PLATTS LANE, LONDON NW3 7NT.  
TEL: (01) 431 2494. TELEX: 923753



(4 continued from page 35)

```

168 IFQ>9THENG=0:F=POKEV,8:POKE36874,0:F=7680
169 IFQ<807ANDQ<8141THENPOKEQ,0:POKEQ+CO,0
170 PRINTLEFT$(Q$,20)LEFT$(RIGHT$(B$,88-PP)+LEFT$(B$,PP),22)
180 PRINT$LEFT$(RIGHT$(C$,88-PP)+LEFT$(C$,PP),22)
181 IFF1=1THENPOKE36874,160
182 FORY=1TO2:POKEAL(Y),8
183 E(Y)=INT(RND(1)*9)+1
184 IFE(Y)=1ORE(Y)=2THENAL(Y)=AL(Y)+21
185 IFE(Y)>2ANDE(Y)<8THENAL(Y)=AL(Y)-1
186 IFE(Y)=9ORE(Y)=10THENAL(Y)=AL(Y)-23
187 IFAL(Y)<7750ORAL(Y)>8142THENAL(Y)=7921
188 POKEAL(Y),W:POKEAL(Y)+CO,0:NEXT
189 PRINT"ROUND",SC
190 NEXT
200 PP=0:GOTO140
210 REM
220 POKE52,28:POKE56,28:Q=7908:CO=30720:POKEQ,0:POKEQ+CO,0:POKE650,255:RETURN
300 IFPEEK(Q+1)=8THENRETURN
305 IFPEEK(Q+1)=32THENRETURN
310 IFPEEK(Q+1)=7THENRETURN
320 DF=1
400 POKEQ,14:POKEQ+CO,2
402 POKE36877,220:FORU=1TO8STEP-.1:POKE36878,U:NEXT:LI=LI-1:POKE36878,15:POKE36877,0
403 POKEQ,8
404 IFDF=1THENPOKEQ,15:POKEQ+CO,0:DF=0
405 IFLI=0THEN500
410 Q=7908:GOTO140
500 PRINT"XXXXXXXXXXXXXGAME OVER!"
510 FORI=1TO2000:NEXT
555 PRINT"ANY KEY":POKE36878,0
580 POKE198,0:WAIT198,1
590 RUN

```

**Falcon Fighter**  
*by Paul Biddle*

## Three Unknowns

## on Spectrum

There are many programs readily available for solving two simultaneous equations in two unknowns. This program, however, solves three equations in three unknowns. It is based, as for the two equation case, on

forming a matrix of the coefficients of the unknowns, inverting this matrix, and then multiplying the constant terms (in the form of another matrix) by this inverse matrix.

Unfortunately, the inversion of a 3 by 3 matrix is more complicated than is the case for a 2 by 2. This program carries out this inversion, multiplies the constant terms, and prints the value of each of the three

variables.

### Program notes

20	Set up arrays.
30-110	Input data.
120-200	Finding the cofactors of the matrix (part of the inversion process)
210	Finding the determinant of the matrix.
230-250	Inverting the matrix and finding the variables.
260-280	Printing the results

```

10 REM PROGRAM FOR SOLVING
THREE SIMULTANEOUS EQUATIONS IN
THREE UNKNOWN BY G.R.YOUNG.
© 1984
20 DIM A(3,3): DIM B(3,3): DIM
D(3)
30 FOR R=1 TO 3
40 PRINT "FOR EQUATION ";R
50 PRINT "OF THE FORM AX+BY+CZ
=D"
60 INPUT "A(";A);")=";A(R,1)
70 INPUT "B(";B);")=";A(R,2)
80 INPUT "C(";C);")=";A(R,3)
90 INPUT "D(";D);")=";D(R)
100 CLS
110 NEXT R
120 LET B(1,1)=A(2,2)*A(3,3)-A(
2,3)*A(3,2)
130 LET B(1,2)=-(A(2,1)*A(3,3)-
A(2,3)*A(3,1))
140 LET B(1,3)=A(2,1)*A(3,2)-A(
2,2)*A(3,1)
150 LET B(2,1)=-(A(1,2)*A(3,3)-
A(1,3)*A(3,2))

```

```

160 LET B(2,2)=A(1,1)*A(3,3)-A(
1,3)*A(3,1)
170 LET B(2,3)=-(A(1,1)*A(3,2)-
A(1,2)*A(3,1))
180 LET B(3,1)=A(1,2)*A(2,3)-A(
1,3)*A(2,2)
190 LET B(3,2)=-(A(1,1)*A(2,3)-
A(1,3)*A(2,1))
200 LET B(3,3)=A(1,1)*A(2,2)-A(
1,2)*A(2,1)
210 LET DETA=A(1,1)*B(1,1)+A(1,
2)*B(1,2)+A(1,3)*B(1,3)
220 IF DETA=0 THEN PRINT AT 11,
5;"NO UNIQUE SOLUTIONS": STOP
230 LET X=(B(1,1)*D(1)+B(2,1)*D
(2)+B(3,1)*D(3))/DETA
240 LET Y=(B(1,2)*D(1)+B(2,2)*D
(2)+B(3,2)*D(3))/DETA
250 LET Z=(B(1,3)*D(1)+B(2,3)*D
(2)+B(3,3)*D(3))/DETA
260 PRINT AT 8,5;"X=";X
270 PRINT AT 10,5;"Y=";Y
280 PRINT AT 12,5;"Z=";Z
290 STOP

```

### Three Unknowns by G Young



\*\*\*\*\*



# Open Forum

## Screen Design on Spectrum

This is a utility program used to construct various screen pictures. Although short, it

has enough features to produce quite pleasing results.

```
5 GO SUB 100
10 LET y=125: LET x=87
20 PLOT INK i,y,x
30 LET a$=INKEY$
40 IF a$="5" AND y>0 THEN LET
y=y-1
50 IF a$="8" AND y<255 THEN LE
T y=y+1
60 IF a$="6" AND x>0 THEN LET
x=x-1
70 IF a$="7" AND x<175 THEN LE
T x=x+1
80 IF a$="i" THEN GO TO 150
85 IF a$="c" THEN GO TO 170
90 GO TO 20
100 INPUT "Paper ";p
110 INPUT "Border ";b
120 INPUT "Ink ";i
130 BORDER b: PAPER p: CLS : IN
K i
140 RETURN
150 INPUT "New ink colour ";i
160 GO TO 90
170 LET a$=INKEY$
180 IF a$="5" AND y>0 THEN LET
y=y-1
190 IF a$="8" AND y<255 THEN LE
T y=y+1
200 IF a$="6" AND x>0 THEN LET
x=x-1
210 IF a$="7" AND x<175 THEN LE
T x=x+1
220 IF a$="c" THEN GO TO 90
230 PLOT y,x:
INVERSE 1;y,x
240 GO TO 170
```

Screen Design  
by J Yeomans

## Microradio

GW6JJN



### Shades of grey

As promised last week here is a review of the G4IDE Microsystems Slow Scan Television program. Since amateur television is invariably sent in monochrome, the representation of pictures on the TV screen generated by the computer (or the ZX Printer, for that matter) poses a problem in that each pixel on the screen can only be either on or off and the necessary shades of grey are not possible. Roger Barker, the author of 'Scan' has got around this problem in an extremely elegant way. He has invented something called the 'Super Pixel'. This consists of four pixel groups which, depending on how many of the group are on or off, will give

five shades of grey. This approach limits the resolution to 128 x 96 which is more than adequate.

When the program is receiving television pictures, the screen can be copied to the printer at any time which makes for some very fine printouts. Screens can also be saved to cassette for later transmission or viewing or even 'processing'. In this sense, processing is a routine to restore full contrast to low contrast pictures and can be used at any time during receive.

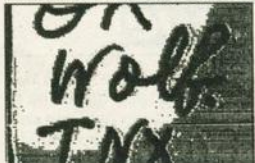
The transmission facilities of this program are simply incredible. The transmitted signal is encoded into a six tone audio system not unlike the



Two tone RTTY signal but more complex. Five tone levels are for the various shades of

grey and the sixth is the synch pulse. Six complete picture screens can be held in memory at any given time all instantly available for transmission.

So how are the screens created? No problem. The program contains two routines to do



just this. The first is a bold writing routine which will create up to six rows of eight characters in normal or inverse. The second is a drawing routine which can create medium resolution pictures or diagrams in five shades of grey. This program, which costs only £10, could be said to be worth the money for these routines alone. All screens can, of course, be saved to tape for further use — in fact, a library of pictures either created or saved from previous on air contacts could make your sta-

tion one of the more interesting and sought after stations in the world, all without breaking the bank.

Of course, the bold writing option can be called and used on air for fairly spectacular results. Extensive instructions on how to construct, receive and transmit interfaces if you don't have such things lying around come with the cassette.

Both Scan and the RTTY program reviewed last week put G4IDE Microsystems in a class of their own as a software house. Roger Barker, the programmer, is to be congratulated in taking the Spectrum where no Spectrum has gone before. G4IDE Microsystems is at 10 Fontwell Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 6PS (tel. Wolverhampton 781760).

Ray Berry GW6JJN

This series of articles is designed for radio and microcomputer enthusiasts alike. If you have any queries that you want answered, hints and tips to share, or topics that you would like to see covered, write to: Ray Berry, Microradio, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.



## Rombug

on Spectrum

This is an exciting arcade style game in

which you must try to prevent your Spectrum being overrun by bugs.

### Program notes

2 Jumps to Udg subroutine

11-20 Sets up screen  
30-47 Variables  
50-130 Bug movement  
140-300 Players movement  
1000-3020 Screen messages  
9000-9030 Udg subroutine

```

1 BORDER 4: INK 0: CLS
2 GO SUB 9000
3 LET S=0: LET T=1000
5 BORDER 4
11 PRINT #1: "ROM CARTRIDGES CL
EARED: "; S
13 PRINT AT 0,0: INK 3: "TIME
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
14 FOR F=0 TO 21: PRINT AT F,0
: INK 3: "X"; AT F,31: INK 3: "X";
NEXT F
15 FOR F=0 TO 31: PRINT AT 21,
F: INK 3: "X"; NEXT F
19 LET h=INT (RAND*17)+2: LET J
=INT (RAND*12)+15: FOR F=h TO h+2
: PRINT AT F,J: FLASH 1: INK 2:
PAPER 6: "XX"; NEXT F
20 FOR F=0 TO 31: PRINT AT I
NT (RAND*16)+2,INT (RAND*30): INK
3: "X"; NEXT F
30 LET d1=2: LET d2=1
31 LET a=11: LET b=29
40 LET x=12+INT (RAND*5): LET y
=1+INT (RAND*5)
45 LET xx=x: LET yy=y
46 LET d3=8: LET d4=6
47 LET T=T-1
48 IF T=0 THEN GO TO 3000
52 PRINT AT x,y: "X"
53 PRINT AT 0,7: T: INK 3: "X"
54 IF ATTR (x+1,y)=59 THEN LET
d1=4
55 IF ATTR (x-1,y)=59 THEN LET
d3=2
56 IF ATTR (x,y+1)=59 THEN LET
d2=2
57 IF ATTR (x,y-1)=59 THEN LET
d4=1
100 IF d1=4 AND x<21 THEN LET x
=x-1
110 IF d1=8 AND x>1 THEN LET x=
x+1
120 IF d2=2 AND y>1 THEN LET y=
y-1
130 IF d2=1 AND y<31 THEN LET y
=y+1
135 IF ATTR (x,y)=176 THEN GO T
O 1000
140 PRINT AT xx,yy: INK 7: " "
150 IF INKEY$="B" AND ATTR (a,b
+2)<>59 AND ATTR (a+1,b+2)<>59 T
HEN LET b=b+1
151 IF INKEY$="5" AND ATTR (a,b
-1)<>59 AND ATTR (a+1,b-1)<>59 T
HEN LET b=b-1
160 IF INKEY$="6" AND ATTR (a+2
,b)<>59 AND ATTR (a+2,b+1)<>59 T
HEN LET a=a+1
161 IF INKEY$="7" AND ATTR (a-1
,b)<>59 AND ATTR (a-1,b+1)<>59 T
HEN LET a=a-1
180 PRINT AT aa,bb: INK 7: " ";
AT aa+1,bb: INK 7: " ";
181 PRINT AT a,b: INK 3: "XX"; AT
a+1,b: INK 3: "XX"
300 GO TO 45
1000 PRINT AT 10,11: FLASH 1: "WE
LL DONE"
1010 FOR G=4 TO 1 STEP -1: FOR F
=0 TO 30 STEP 3: BEEP G/100,F: B
EEP G/100,F-30: NEXT F: NEXT G
1020 LET S=S+1
1030 CLS : GO TO 4
2000 STOP
3000 PRINT "TIME RAN OUT AND THE
BUG RUINED YOUR ROM!!!! PRESS
ANY KEY TO PLAY. ...."
3001 PRINT "YOU SAVED "; S: " SPEC
TRUMS. ...."
3005 FOR f=50 TO 0 STEP -1: BEEP
.01,f: NEXT f
3010 IF INKEY$<>" " THEN RUN
3020 GO TO 3010
9000 FOR f=144 TO 146: FOR n=0 T
O 7: READ a: POKE USR CHR$ f+n,a
: NEXT n: NEXT f
9010 DATA 255,129,BIN 10111101,B
IN 10100101,BIN 10100101,BIN 101
11101,129,255
9020 DATA BIN 00111100,BIN 01000
010,255,BIN 11100111,BIN 1010010
1,BIN 10111101,BIN 11000011,BIN
01111110
9025 DATA BIN 11011011,BIN 10011
001,BIN 00111100,255,255,BIN 001
11100,BIN 10011001,BIN 11011011
9030 RETURN

```

Rombug  
by J McMorrough

## Arcade Avenue

### Cartoon art

By now all regular readers of BPCW must be well and truly fed up with the debate raging on the letters page about the merits or otherwise of arcade high score tables. In fact, at times the argument has degenerated into the merits or otherwise of anyone who dares use their electronic marvels for arcade games.

Aside from the fact that everyone has a right to their own interests, and that games are one of the oldest and most necessary human pastimes, there are many arguments to support the computer games-player. For instance, all computer users benefit from the

mass sales and low prices that are in a large part fuelled by an interest in games (and you only have to look at the specification of new low price machines such as the Spectravideo or the Flan Enterprise to see how games have influenced their design).

Similarly, games are the the most user friendly way of promoting computer awareness and an interest in programming. Hence the increase in sales of the myriad 'machine code made simple' books which suggest that the desire to write fast and furious games is producing in the public a degree of expertise that would once have only been found in the professionals.

People are learning that computers are not just malevolent leviathons that function only to add a row of spurious zeros to gas bills, and that they can improve our lives in undreamt of ways.

I think it is about time that we dispelled the misconception that computers should only have serious applications such as science, business or education — they should also complement the artistic side of life. American universities spend millions developing more and more complex graphics and animations systems. In the arcades we are already beginning to see games of a graphic complexity approaching that of cartoon movies, that can in-

teract with and respond to the skills and desires of the player. It may be an art form.

And now a request. What are the best versions of classic arcade games for your machine? Which *Pac Man*, *Defender*, *Buck Rogers*, *Dig Dug*, etc, would you advise your friends to buy? — let us know.

Tony Kendle

The Arcade Corner is a new section for anyone who enjoys playing arcade games. If you have any comments, from playing tips on difficult games or programs you'd particularly like to praise (or blame) then write to: Tony Kendle, Arcade Avenue, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.



Available for  
**COMMODORE 64**  
**DRAGON 32 TANDY COLOUR**

# Cuthbert in Space



The Federal Chief has decided that Cuthbert is to go on a mission of plunder against the Moronian's Solar System. Cuthbert lands his space craft on each planet but then has to refuel by stealing pods from the Moronian fuel dumps whilst avoiding the Solar Meteoroid Barrage.

After filling up he goes and plunders as much loot as possible before take-off. All could go well but when he gets a mal-function he must send a pilotless shuttle to obtain spares and take-off before the Moronian's bomb detonates.

**CASSETTE £8 DISK £9.95**

Mail Order Sales from  
 Microdeal Mail Order 41 Truro Rd,  
 St. Austell Cornwall PL25 5JE

Credit Card Sales   
 Phone 0726 3456



Dealers Contact  
**MICRODEAL DISTRIBUTION**  
 0726-3456  
 or **WEBSTERS SOFTWARE**  
 0483 62222

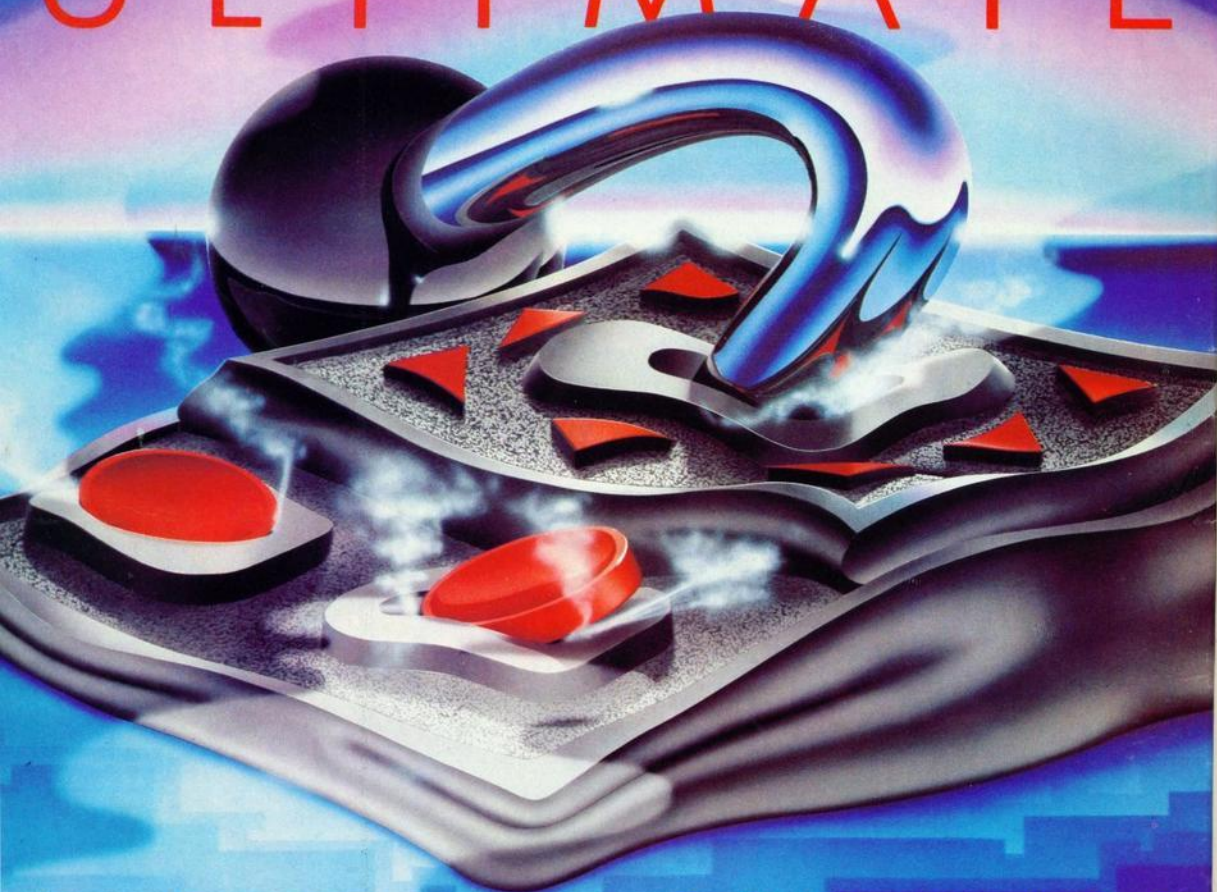
## MICRODEAL

Selected Microdeal Titles available from computer dealers nationwide or from larger branches of

 **John Menzies** and  **Boots**  
 Stores



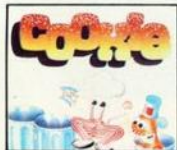
# ULTIMATE



## THE NOT · SO · SOFTWARE

CAN YOU HANDLE THE **ULTIMATE**?  
THE MOST AMAZING PROGRAMMES, THE SMOOTHEST  
ACTION, THE HIGHEST RESOLUTION GRAPHICS?  
ALL **ULTIMATE** GAMES ARE ARCADE STANDARD,

FEATURE PACKED, 100% MACHINE CODE.  
AND PURE ADDICTION.  
SO WHICH WILL BLOW FIRST - YOUR COMPUTER OR  
YOUR MIND?



Cookie 16/48K ZX Spectrum



Tranz Am 16/48K ZX Spectrum



Atic Atac 48K ZX Spectrum



Pssst 16/48K Spectrum



Lunar Jetman 48K ZX Spectrum



Jet Pac 16/48K ZX Spectrum  
or 8K Expanded VIC 20

**ONLY £5.50 EACH**

(All games joystick or  
keyboard control)

Available from: W.H. Smith, Boots, John  
Menzies, Spectrum Centres, large department  
stores and all good software retailers. Or send the coupon direct.  
We'll pack and post your order to you absolutely free in the U.K.

Okay, I dare take my computer to the edge of meltdown. Send me the following:

☐ Cookie ☐ Lunar Jetman ☐ Pssst ☐ Tranz Am  
☐ Jet Pac ☐ Jet Pac - Expanded VIC 20 ☐ Atic Atac

I enclose cheque/PO for £ \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Code \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
Ultimate Play The Game,  
The Green,  
Ashby de la Zouch,  
Leicestershire.



Ultimate Play The Game is a trade name of Ashby Computers and Graphics Ltd., The Green, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, Tel (0530) 411485. Dealer enquiries welcome.



# Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



## Hollywood Trilogy

A couple of weeks ago, I mentioned *Nosferatu*, a Quill'd adventure from author Graham Shaw. He has contacted me to tell me that it is now being marketed by Classic Software, which you'll find at: 105 Church Lane, Cross Gates, Leeds LS15 8JD.

The packaging, which I felt was an important part of the adventure, and a facet of the game that lifted it well above the usual Spectrum adventure, has, thankfully, been retained. *Nosferatu* is the first part of a trilogy, the other parts of which are *The Connecticut Apple Affair* and *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?* — sound like this should be called *The Hollywood Trilogy*! Each part will be self-contained, but on completion of the first two parts the player will be given a special code which will grant entry to a couple of special locations in the following program. The second and third parts should be available any time now, and

if they're as good as *Nosferatu*, then I can recommend them.

Graham makes some interesting comments in his letter. In saying that there will be no help sheet available (though individual queries will be answered), he explains: "... this is because such sheets either seem to end up as step by step 'how to do it' instructions (eg, Artic's), or by making the player work for his clue, end up being so cryptic that the unfortunate adventurer needs a help sheet for his help sheet!"

I think that help sheets can be an important aid to solving the adventure, but Graham is right, they have to tread a rather perilous middle path and can be more of a frustrating experience than the very adventure they're designed to help solve. I hope to do a comparison of help sheets in the near future, so if you have anything you'd like to say about the subject, just drop a line to the Grand Elf.

Graham goes on "10/10 for Mr Valentine's adventure ratings (Vol 3 No 11) — such lists will prove most useful! Here's a list of the adventures I've encountered:

**SHIP OF DOOM** — *ARTIC* (5/10): coming in for a lot of stick recently — not for feminists or lovers of children. Often difficult but lacking in detail and depth.

**GOLDEN APPLE** — *ARTIC* (7/10): the best of the Artic range — but beware the help sheet!

**SNOWBALL** — *LEVEL 9* (9/10): fiendishly logical but impossible to map. If you find you can't progress, take a tip from Ala 'ddin!

**DUNGEON ADVENTURE** — *LEVEL 9* (10/10): "A/""E"!!!

**THE ISLAND** — *CRYSTAL* (7/10): you'll love it or hate it. Packed full of gimmicks.

**VELNOR'S LAIR** — *QUICKSILVA* (7/10): a pleasant surprise, plenty of problems and plenty of monster-bashing.

**MOUNTAINS OF KET** — *INCENTIVE* (7/10): nice combat routine, but try not to use it too often!

**THE VALLEY** — *ASP* (5/10): overpriced.

**MAGIC MOUNTAIN** — *PHIPPS* (6/10): rather slow

response time, also some pictures take a long time to draw.

"This list is for the Spectrum, although the Level 9 adventures seem to be available for every micro under the sun. CBM 64 owners should lay their hands on a copy of *Twin Kingdom Valley* at all costs!! Incredible graphics!"

Many of you have sent me lists of your favourite adventures, with ratings, and I think that this is a good idea — I can't even see, let alone complete all the adventures now available, and your lists are a good way of giving people an idea of difficulty, value for money and so on. One or two letters suggest a rating based on time taken to complete an adventure, but I imagine everyone takes their own pace, and while some people take two hours to finish *The Hobbit*, others are content to take it easy and fill several weeks. I'll try and make a regular feature of such lists in the future, if you keep sending them in.

Victoria Dunne of North Shields has sent in some clues to some Spectrum adventures. In a change from the usual Corner Code, I have included, at the end of the Corner, a list of relevant words. If you are playing *Transylvanian Tower*: 5-9-19-22-4-10. In *Planet of Death*: 6-4-23-20-11-4-18-3-21-13. And finally, in *The Hobbit*: 14-7-17-11-7-24-8-2-16-26-15-8-12-25-28-1.

Are you on Micronet-800? If so, you'll be interested to know that several people have recommended *Orb of Orion* which you will find there. Give it a whirl, it's supposed to be rather hard!

Finally, before I disappear down the hole, I must ask everyone who has sent adventures to the Grand Elf to be patient — he has an awful lot to look at, but every one is looked at! And I haven't forgotten you, Mr Hugh T Walker, I shall be going through your points soon.

Are you stuck in an adventure? Are you faced by a problem that seems insurmountable? *Adventure Helpline* may be the answer.

*Adventure Helpline* is, quite simply, designed to put adventurers in touch with one another. Where you may be stumped by a baffling puzzle, a fellow adventurer may be able to help. By the same token, you may be able to help other people with their problems.

If you are having difficulties with an adventure, fill in the accompanying coupon and send it to:

*Adventure Helpline*  
Popular Computing Weekly  
12-13 Little Newport Street  
London WC2R 3LD

We shall publish *Adventure Helpline* entries each week in their own special column.

## Adventure Helpline

Micro .....

Adventure .....

Problem .....

.....

.....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| 1 DOOR     | 15 KEY        |
| 2 GAT      | 16 CACHE      |
| 3 ONE      | 17 SEQUENCE   |
| 4 THE      | 18 NOT        |
| 5 YOU      | 19 BUTTONS    |
| 6 PRESS    | 20 TWO        |
| 7 GOBLIN'S | 21 NEED       |
| 8 TO       | 22 LIFT       |
| 9 DO       | 23 DUNGEON    |
| 10 MIRROR  | 24 MOUNTAIN'S |
| 11 IN      | 25 CURIOUS    |
| 12 OPEN    | 26 TO         |
| 13 THREE   | 27 SIDE       |
| 14 BREAK   |               |

This series of articles is designed for novice and experienced Adventurers alike. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different Adventures and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So, if you have an Adventure you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an Adventure and cannot progress any further write to: Tony Bridge, Adventure Corner, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.



# CBM 64 — VIC PRINTER

For only £79.90 fully inc!

"Very good — and good value too" Commodore User Review Dec 1983.  
Probably the world's cheapest Vic/64 Printer, but better print quality than  
printers three times the price! Put the superb ALPHACOM-32 Printer (or  
ZX-Printer) on your Vic/64 using the

## SOFTX PRINTERFACE

Printerface alone only .....£20.95 fully inc!  
Alphacom system complete only .....£79.90 fully inc!  
Vic Wordprocessor package only .....£9.95 fully inc!  
(64 version T.B.A.)

- \* Alphacom-32 printer already established in W.H. Smiths,  
John Menzies: RRP £59.95
- \* Prints in blue or black on economical write paper (costs  
1.3p per foot)
- \* Very robust and hardwearing! Gives consistent, high quality  
print
- \* Silent but fast: up to 90 characters per second
- \* Full Vic/64 graphics as well as user defined characters
- \* 64 column printer with superb formatting facilities
- \* Excellent high resolution graphics
- \* Operating commands same as Commodore Vic/64 printer
- \* Works on Sinclair's ZX-PRINTER (Needs ZX-power supply:  
£5.95 fully  
incl)
- \* Fast delivery — friendly backup — simple to use!
- \* Not a plotter, but a fast dot-matrix printer
- \* Money back within 7 days if not satisfied

**SOFTX**  
Computer  
Accessories

Send orders/enquiries to:  
Dept W3  
SOFTX COMPUTERS, 37 Wheaton Rd,  
Bournemouth BH7 6LH, Tel 0202 422028.

# Walters

## LOOK

## GAMES PROGRAMMERS

You could be earning

**£20,000 +**

for your game!  
whatever the machine

**SO SEND THEM TO US  
NOW!**

Send tape and instructions to:  
Ian Smart, Software Development Manager,



Walters Computer Systems Limited,  
12 Hagley Road,  
Stourbridge,  
West Midlands DY8 1PS.

# QL

**£49.00**  
INC

## PARALLEL PRINTER INTERFACE

AVAILABLE NOW

- \* 12 months guarantee
- \* Fully self-contained with connectors and  
3.0 metre cable
- \* Plugs into Sinclair QL's RS232C port and
- \* Drives any CENTRONICS compatible printer, eg, Epson  
Seikosha Juki OKI NEC Shinwa Star MCP-40 Roland, etc, etc.

To order send name & address with cheque to  
MIRACLE SYSTEMS LTD  
6 Armitage Way  
Kings Hedges  
CAMBRIDGE CB4 2UE  
Tel: 0223-312886  
Ask at your local computer shop.  
Sinclair and QL are trademarks of Sinclair Research Ltd

**DRAGON BBC**

**SHARP MZ700  
SPECTRUM**

21 UNION STREET RAMSBOTTOM, NE BURY LANC.

## NEW EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE CHOOSE ANY 3 FOR THE PRICE OF 2

TELL THE TIME — DRAGON — £6.50

Three programs using high res. graphics and sound designed to teach  
children how to tell the time. The first being for the very young and the  
other two for students of French and German.

FIRST LETTERS AND WORDS — DRAGON, BBC — SPECTRUM  
A unique program that uses graphics to teach young children how to  
correctly form letters of the alphabet and use them in simple words and  
sentences.

ABC — DRAGON — £6.50

A spelling and letter recognition program using animated high-res.  
graphics and sound. This superb program will amuse and educate  
children for hours.

MATHS TUTOR — DRAGON, SHARP MZ 700 — £6.50

A set of three programs designed to teach simple mathematics to your  
children (3-10). The package also includes a test sequence for parents or  
teachers allowing them to set their own questions.

'O' LEVEL / CSE PHYSICS (PART 1 — LENGTH) —

DRAGON, BBC — £6.50

100% high res. graphics package demonstrating and testing the students  
use of various callipers, micrometers etc.

'O' LEVEL / CSE PHYSICS (PART 2 — VOLUME) —

DRAGON, BBC — £6.50

The second program in the series demonstrating and testing the students  
use of bar chart, pipettes and measuring cylinders.

'O' LEVEL / CSE GEOGRAPHY — (WEATHER-MAP SYMBOLS) —

DRAGON — £6.50

Designed to teach and test the students' knowledge of weather map  
symbols. Each symbol is represented in high res. graphics and the  
program covers the complete syllabus.

MUSIC TUTOR — DRAGON — £9.95

Learn music with this comprehensive package using high-res. graphics  
and all the Dragons music facilities.

**FREE  
PROGRAM  
OFFER**

**ABACUS SOFTWARE URGENTLY REQUIRES**  
ORIGINAL COMMODORE 64 & SPECTRUM  
Educational and Machine Code ARCADE GAMES  
for details ring **BOLTON 383839**

**Trade—Distributor Enquiries**

**Generous Dealer Discounts**  
Ring **BOLTON 383839**

MANY MORE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE.  
SEND S.A.E. FOR DETAILS.





# Peek & Poke



## PASSWORD ONLY

Adrian Hedge, 150 Greenock Road, Largs, Ayrshire, writes:

**Q** I have a BBC model B. I write a lot of my own programs, and I would like to know how I can program the computer so that only I can get into the programs. For example, you would need a code or password. This has been puzzling me for quite some time - perhaps you could give me an answer.

**A** One way of doing this would be to require a password to be entered before the program will properly start. This could be achieved by placing the following Basic statements at the beginning of your programs.

```
10 LET I=1: LET PS="ADRIAN": LET P=6
20 LET AS=LINKEYS
30 IF AS="" GO TO 20
40 IF AS=MID$(PS,I,1) GO TO 10
50 IF I=6 LET I=1: GO TO 20
```

The string PS is used to contain the required password, the length of which is contained in the variable P. Until the correct sequence of keys has been pressed, the program will not proceed past line 50.

## JOYSTICK CONVERSION

R Edwards, 29 Newbridge Road, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, writes:

**Q** I would like to know if there is an easy way of converting a Dragon 32 program that uses joysticks to use the keyboard instead.

I have a specific program in mind and I have tried but with no success so far. The program has a line denoting two joys-

ticks and I would like to convert it to use the arrow keys.

I would also like to know if anyone has given any thoughts on writing a book on the Error codes and the best way to get out of them. I mean the error codes that occur most often eg. F/C Error: O/D Error: and that sort. I'm sure that it would be a good seller.

**A** You will have to replace all the joystick statements with tests for the appropriate cursor keys. This may be a laborious process, but it is the only sure way.

You should bear in mind that a game designed specifically for joysticks is unlikely to be as easy to play using the keyboard. But, if you want to do this, who am I to stop you.

One last point. You had better check that the keyboard hasn't been disabled (by a *Poke*), before you try all this. It is quite a common feature of joystick oriented games that the keyboard scanning routine is interrupted to speed things up.

## CRYSTAL CLEAR

A Ravles, 26 Ashleigh Road, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, writes:

**Q** I would like to know why the keyboard on my ZX81 locks up after around 10 minutes use. The screen display is terrible, as I hear is the norm, but after about 10 minutes the display goes crystal clear. When this happens the keyboard is disabled.

Is this a general complaint with the machine and is it rectifiable? Could it be my tv set which is causing the trouble?

**A** Your problem lies with the ZX81 and not your tv. If you do not have a 16K Ram pack, then I am afraid that to repair it will necessitate some specialist repair work.

If you do have a 16K Ram pack, then this is what you do. You will need to remove the internal 1K RAM chips. These are marked 2114 and there are two of them inside the ZX81.

If you don't fancy doing this yourself, then try a tv repair shop - they will be able to do this for you.

## QL PRINTER

Stephen Grieff, 1 Chalfont Grove, Hastings Hill, Sunderland, writes:

**Q** I am thinking of buying a Sinclair QL for a small business, and I will need a good printer to go along with it. I will pay up to the £400-£500 mark for a printer. Please could you suggest some RS232-C based printers in this range?

**A** There are quite a few printers in your price range, but I would tend to go for either an Epson RX-80 (dot matrix) or a Brother HR15 (daisywheel). The Epson retails at around £320 and the Brother at around £430.

## ABOVE RAMTOP

L W Dewhurst, 8 Stirling Avenue, Leamington Spa, writes:

**Q** On page 157 of *Machine Code Applications for the ZX Spectrum* by David Laine, published by Sunshine, is the advice - "Assemble your code to run at high memory addresses, but leave enough room between the end of your code and the Spectrum UDG pointer location for the stack... in general, you will be alright if the end of your code is at about 63500 with a 48K machine."

But, I always thought that if one left machine code above Ramtop (reducing Ramtop is necessary beforehand) it would be out of reach of the stack - ie, that the stack would always be below Ramtop. Would you therefore please explain his advice?

**A** What I think David is getting at is the fact that you can relocate the stack in a machine code program (using the stack pointer), and that he is simply suggesting that you

locate the stack at address 63500.

You must have noticed that quite a lot of commercially produced machine code programs use most of the Spectrum's Ram, implying that Ramtop has been reduced to a very low value. This would mean that there would be no room for the machine stack, unless the facility existed to relocate it somewhere else in memory (normally at the top).

## BASIC PLOTTING

James Youngman, 86a Cat Hill, Cockfosters, London, writes:

**Q** I would like to know whether *Xor (Eor)* plotting is possible in Basic on the QL as it is on the BBC B?

**A** The easy answer to this is maybe. As you have no doubt heard, Sinclair have had a few problems fitting Superbasic into the QL Rom. Until the 'real' QL appears, I can only guess at what facilities will be finally available.

## TRACK RACE

Mark Colman, 42 Carlton Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, writes:

**Q** I've got a 16K expanded Vic 20, and I keep looking for a game which simulates a car on a track. I've got *Race Fun* by Rabbit Software, but it only shows one section of road at a time, also it doesn't go round corners.

I'm looking for a game like *Chequered Flag* on the Spectrum. Have you seen any game of this description?

**A** The only car racing game I've seen is *Race* which is produced by Commodore at £4.99. I don't know of any others for the Vic, does anyone out there know different?

Is there anything about your computer you don't understand, and which everyone else seems to take for granted? Whatever your problem *Peek* it to Phil Rogers and every week he will *Poke* back as many answers as he can. The address is *Peek & Poke*, PCW, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.



**MERCURY HOUSE** **GAMES FOR** **AQUARIUS** **MERCURY HOUSE**  
UNEXPANDED MACHINE

Gamespack 1 contains - Bombadier, Fruit Machine, Hangman, Alien Descent, Escape - £4.99

Gamespack 2 contains - Dungeon Adventure, U-Boat, Golf, Starcatcher, Moonraker - £4.99

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
BOTH TAPES ONLY £7.99

Din to Din or Din to Jack - £1.75  
CHEQUES, POs TO

**MERCURY HOUSE**  
PO BOX 157, MANCHESTER M60 1PP

Mail order only Trade enquiries welcome  
Please allow 14 days for delivery

**GOLD CREST MAIL ORDERS ONLY**  
UNIT #7, 9 WINCHESTER ST, LONDON W3 **TOP SAVINGS**

**ZX SPECTRUM 16K** from £85. 48K from £112.  
**BBC MICRO** from £370. COMMODORE 64 from £175.  
**QUICKSHOT JOYSTICK 1** from £8.95. II from £10.95

**CMB 64 NEW SOFTWARE SPECTRUM**

Hobbit 64 RRP £14.95 ORP £10.95	Maurice meets the Bikers RRP £6.00
Manic Miner, Crazy Balloons, Ugh, RRP £7.95 ORP £5.50	ORP £4.50. Ah Diddums RRP £5.50
Scramble, Squash Frog, Boogaboo 64 RRP £7.95 ORP £5.50	ORP £4.50. Fighter Pilot RRP £7.95
Lazer Zone RRP £7.50 ORP £5.20	ORP £3.40 Jetset Willy RRP £5.95
Super Pipeline RRP £6.90 ORP £5.80	ORP £4.65 Romelia Revenge RRP £6.50 ORP £4.95.

MANY MORE IN STOCK. NAME IT, WE HAVE IT.  
FOR ORDERS UNDER £10.00 AND OTHER DETAILS SEND SAE.  
PLEASE ALLOW AT LEAST 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY.  
ENQS. PLEASE CONTACT MRS ALAM ON: 01-992 1362 x 126

**NOW 3RD GREAT YEAR!** **HIRE** **SPECTRUM and ZX81 PROGRAM TAPES**

**FREE** ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY MAGAZINE WITH TIPS, NEWS, REVIEWS, DISCOUNT OFFERS PLUS OUR TOP 60 TAPES CHART BASED ON THOUSANDS OF SCORES!

**JOIN OVER 3,000 DELIGHTED MEMBERS!**

**UP TO 2 WEEKS FROM ONLY 64p + P/P & VAT!**

**ADVENTURE GAMES**  
**ARCADE AND SIMULATION GAMES**  
**BUSINESS and PRACTICAL PROGRAMS**  
**UTILITIES**  
**M/C COMPILERS**  
**EDUCATIONAL**  
**FROM OVER 50 TOP SUPPLIERS ALL WITH PERMISSION!**

**YOUR FIRST TAPE FREE IF YOU JOIN NOW!**  
Formerly Sinclair Owners' Share Library

**NOW READ THE FACTS**

We were the first Sinclair library, and have since built up a vast stock - apart from over 200 different programs costing up to £15 each, we maintain a supreme service with up to 30 copies of the most popular ones. We're run not from a back-room but from our own shop and offices which members can visit or phone. Six staff give prompt, friendly help. Plus our free magazine and guaranteed satisfaction;

**WHY SETTLE FOR LESS?**

To: SOFTWARE LIBRARY, Farnham Road, West Liss, Hants GU33 6JU.

NAME.....Machine.....  
ADDRESS.....

**THE ORIGINAL SINCLAIR LIBRARY!**

**Special offer from this issue: LIFE MEMBERSHIP £6** (normally £9.50). Overseas (Europe only) £10, or join a local branch: Scandinavia: Peder Lykkesvej 33, 2300 Copenhagen S. Benelux: Jacobsmidslaan 75, B-2400 MOL, Belgium. W. Germany: Postfach 7809, 4800 Bielefeld. S. Africa: PO Box 1769, Manzini, Swaziland. Eire: 122 South Circular Rd., Dublin 8. PCWK.

## ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ALL COMMODORE USERS!

Do you use tapes? Are you sick and tired of waiting for your programs to be Loaded/Saved from/on the tape? Then you need a **TORNADO!!** Tornado allows you to Save/Load/Verify your Basic/machine code programs faster than a CBM 1541 disk drive does!! Due to popular demand! Tornado now comes with new and more powerful commands plus extra instructions to assist you in making fast versions of your existing machine code/Basic programs. Tornado is available on tape for CBM 64 and 8K+ Vic 20.

Do your Run/Stop and Restore keys often fail? Do you want to come out of those crashes?! Or get into those unbreakable programs?! Then what are you waiting for, get yourself a

**BREAKER!!** Reset switch and let your computer know who is the boss!! Breaker can be connected to your machine in seconds, no soldering. Included with the Breaker reset switch is extra backup software on tape. Breaker is now available for any CBM 64 or Vic 20.

Available for CBM 64 and the Vic 20 now is the

**ROM-FILE** which contains a complete disassembly of CBM 64/Vic 20 Rom with comments! As well as a complete description of all 6502/6510 instructions and addressing modes + a complete listing of a machine code monitor and more!

Please make cheques/PO payable to:

**BSF COMPUTER SERVICES LTD.**  
DEALERS AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES  
TEL: 079882240

**MAD SUMMER OFFER!!  
A FREE BREAKER WITH  
EVERY TORNADO IF YOU  
USE THIS COUPON!!**

Please send me..... Tornado at £9.95 + my free! Breaker

Please send me..... Breaker at £7.95

Please send me..... Rom-File at £7.95

I enclose cheque/PO/cash to the sum of £.....

Name..... Computer.....

Address.....

Please use this form and block letters only. All prices are inclusive of p&p (mail order only, add £2 if outside UK). Please post to:  
**BSF CSL, 20-28 BOLSOVER STREET, LONDON W1.**



# CLASSIFIED

Semi-display — £5 per single cc  
Lineage — 20p per word

CALL DIANE DAVIS ON 01-437 4343 FOR SEMI/DISPLAY ADVERTISING

## GAMES SOFTWARE

### BESTSELLERS LIST

MANIC MINOR	CBM64	£6.50
SPACE PILOT	CBM64	£5.95
HUNCHBACK	CBM64	£5.40
08MICRODEAL	Dragon	£6.70
UGHI	Dragon	£5.95
KREISPIEL	Dragon	£5.50
JETSET WILLY	Spectrum	£4.90
LUNAR JETMAN	Spectrum	£4.90
ALCHEMIST	Spectrum	£4.50
JETPAC	Vic 20	£4.95
MEGALAC LLAMA	Vic 20	£4.95
TRIQUAN LTPEN	Spectrum	£14.00
Dragon		£9.50

All prices inc p&p. Cheques to:  
ORON SOFTWARE,  
64 Prince St., Rochdale, Lancs.

**COMMODORE 64.** Are these games bowering you? Manic Miner, Revenge Mutant Camels, China Miner. Want to get really high scores? Now you can have hundreds of lives, start on any screen of these and other top 64 games. Send £5.50 (Cheque/P.O.) for reset switch and full instructions, including how to load most games faster to: S. Mainwaring, 19 Heol Saffrwn, Morriston, Swansea SA6 6EH.

## SPECTRUM GAMES

WE ONLY SELL THE BEST  
ORDER TO-DAY: DELIVER TO-MORROW  
POSTAGE AND PACKING FREE

### SPECIAL OFFERS

ALL 48K

JET SET WILLY	£4.95	NIGHT GUNNER	£5.95
HUNCHBACK	£5.90	THE SKULL	£6.95
BLADE ALLEY	£4.95	THE HOBBIT	£11.95

WRITE OR PHONE FOR OUR SUPER NEW BROCHURE  
PACKED FULL OF REVIEWS AND EVEN MORE  
SPECIAL OFFERS ORDERS WITH CHEQUE/P.O. TO:  
CYGNUS TWO COMPUTER GAMES  
62 WOODLAND ROAD, CHINGFORD, LONDON E4 7EU  
TEL: 01-529 1891. ENQUIRIES WELCOME

### £1,000 PRIZE

for the winner of

GOLDEN  
QUEST

PLUS  
DONUS

REAL ADVENTURE PUZZLE  
MADDENING, HYPNOTIC, ADDICTIVE

### FOR 48K SPECTRUM

£7.50 (including p&p) from Marshallgate  
Ltd, 27 St Michaels St, Caldmore,  
Walsall,  
West Midlands.

**ADVENTURE—DRAGON 32.** The  
Scarlet Crystal, exciting, fun and highly  
addictive. Only £4. From Mystic Soft-  
ware, 58 Ballron Crescent, Hamilton,  
Lanarkshire.

**HOBBIT** hint sheets. Solve your pro-  
blems for just £1. Send cheque/P.O. and  
SAE to M Twibell, 66 Liberty Place,  
Sheffield S65 0D.

**ZX81 1K 6-game cassette.** Fight Laser-  
Gates, Land Harriers, Attack Missiles &  
much more! All for just £2.99 inc. D A  
Spencer 230 Lowgrange Avenue, Bil-  
ingham, Cleveland.

**VIC 20** (unexpanded) games; Pinball,  
Horse-racing game with hires graphics,

motor-biker, ride across winding paths,  
changing gears. £1.99 each or all  
together for only £4.50. D Spencer, 230  
Lowgrange Avenue, Billingham, Clevel-  
and.

**PUNTERSAPAL** for the Spectrum. The  
DIY racing system that proves itself with  
practical demonstration from actual re-  
cent race. Security locked with personal  
password. Plus bets selector. Plus  
winnings calculator. Outright purchase  
price £25 or £5 and promise to share  
winnings. Send either figure now for  
your own personal money spinner.  
Punterspal, 77 Darby St., Derby DE3  
6UE.

## UTILITIES

Friendly  
Face

MICRODRIVE UTILITY

ADDS microdrive commands to basic  
MERGES with Masterfield Tasword Two  
COPIES operating system to cartridges

monitor  
P.O. Box 442 London NW7 2JF  
Phone: 01-959 1757

**'VU-FILE'** Microdrive? Yes this basic  
and machine code program when  
added to your 'VU-File' enables it to  
operate with your Spectrum. Fitted  
with interface one and microdrive.  
Cassette and instructions £2.95.  
DraySoft 2 Bedford Way, Rugeley,  
Staffs.

### MNL Software\*\*UDG 96\*\* SPECTRUM

A graphics tablet which lets you work on  
sets of 96 chars (or the standard 21 char  
set). M/C routines give a fast (adjustable)  
response to over 20 options: MIRROR,  
OVERLAY, ENLARGE, ROTATE,  
SCROLL, PINCH, Etc. Etc. On screen  
grids 8x8 up to 24x24 (for block  
options). 2 viewing modes/3 printout  
modes. Instructions on using sets within  
your programs included. Cheques/P.O.  
for £3.95 to MNL Software 46 City Road,  
Cambridge or SAE for full details.  
Professional Software at a fair price.

### HYPERSAVE 64

Get the most from your Commodore 64  
Datassette. When saved with  
**Hypersave** any program (Basic or  
M/code) will **independently reload at 7  
times normal speed.** 4 additional basic  
commands. Auto-run facility. 48K of con-  
tinuous program space available. Fast-  
loader is self contained in the tape  
header. Just switch on and load. Why  
buy disk? **Hypersave** is nearly as fast.  
Well documented. All m/c fast despatch.  
Cassette £7.50 or SAE to:  
DOSOFF (DEPT P)  
2 OAKMOOR AVENUE  
BLACKPOOL FY3 0EE

Still printing only 32 characters per-  
line in your Spectrum BASIC  
programs?

There is a TOTAL choice you know!

### "Micro-print 85"

gives you not only 64 but also 36, 42, 51  
and even 85 pitch printing onto all 24  
screen lines and/or the ZX printer, plus a  
1-24 line screen COPY command. The  
code (only 1.1 k-bytes) is utterly simple  
to use, offering any mix of all six pitches  
at any location. Thousands of delighted  
users already know it. **"Micro-print 85"**  
is the most versatile multi-pitch utility you  
can buy! The 16 and 48k cassette with a  
full 'Demo' program are just £5.00  
(£6.00 export) from

### Myrmidon Software

PO Box 2, TADWORTH, SURREY  
KT20 7LU.

## DOUBLE THE STOR- AGE CAPACITY OF YOUR SINGLE SIDED DISKS

☆ No extra cost for double  
density disks

☆ Forward to:

FLIPSIDER  
75 Walton Rd, East Molesey,  
Surrey KT8 9RH  
(We recommend recorded  
delivery)

Enclose £1.50 + 75p P+P  
Allow 7-10 days for return or  
send S.A.E. for further details

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES:

Line by line: 20p per word,  
minimum 20 words.

Semi-display: £5 per single col-  
umn centimetre, minimum length  
2 cm. (Please supply A/W as  
PMT. Or supply rough setting  
instructions.)

Conditions: All copy for Classi-  
fied section must be pre-paid.  
Copy date 7 days before publica-  
tion.

If you wish to discuss your ad,  
PLEASE RING Diane Davis 01-  
437 4343.

## Here's my classified ad.

(Please write your copy in capital letters on the lines below.)


Please continue on a separate sheet of paper

I make this ..... words, at ..... per word so I owe you £ .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Telephone .....

Please cut out and send this form to: Classified Department, Popular Computing Weekly,  
12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.



## SOFTCELL'S DISCO

For the Commodore 64

This is the most powerful tape to disc transfer utility you can buy. No program rewriting is necessary! Why put up with second best? A must for all 1541 disc owners. Only £9.95 and 50p p&p

Available from:

**THE SIX-FOUR SUPPLIES CO**  
PO Box 19  
Whitstable, Kent  
CT5 1TJ

ACCESS-BARCLAY CARD ORDERS on:  
(0227) 266289

**COMMODORE 64** tape to disk transfer utility. Transfer your cassette software onto floppy disk. £5.00 S M Dawes, 71, Bellburn Lane, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 0LW.

**'AUTO-MERGE'** an amazing utility that merges and loads 'auto-start' programs from ZX microdrives to enable inspection and modification! £3.95 Alan Turnbull, 65 Vicarage Rd, Stockport.

**TELETEXT** on your Spectrum: Create your own 900-page teletext system using 'ZXTEXT'. Full-colour text and graphics, flashing, 24-hour clock with alarm, rolling page facility, free sample system — it's all here! Build up a teletext tape library. £4.95 from Iain Teletext, 17 Torry Drive, Alva FK12 5NQ.

## (S)TOP SECRET(S)

NOW for COMMODORE 64 and 48K SPECTRUM.

Put you back in full control of programs on YOUR computer.

A machine code utility that STOPS most BASIC or MACHINE CODE programs, protected or not, without crashing.

If you can stop them, you can reveal their SECRETS.

LEARN, LIST, MODIFY etc.

The ideal MICRODRIVE/5.25 DISK companion. PLUS An advanced HEADER READER. PLUS A Hex/Dec/Dec/Hex converter. PLUS Pages of information about how the professionals keep their secrets hidden.

(M.Code routines re-locatable under software control)

**SPECTRUM 48K £5.95 COMMODORE 64** (state which in order)

(also available on microdrive — £11.00) Cheque/P.O. to:

ASH BYPRODUCTS, 183 Bristol Road, Birmingham B5 7UL

## COMMODORE 64

This superb utility program will assist CBM owners to transfer their software from cassette to disk.

Supplied on cassette with full instructions.

Send £4.99 or SAE to:

Clark Kent Software

26, Northcote Walk, CORBY

Northamptonshire NN18 9DQ

**SPECTRUM SPEEDYLOAD.** Halve your waiting time! This short program lets you save/load at 3,000 baud. Easy to use with any tape command, cassette (48k) £3.95. Ness Micro Systems, 100 Drakes Avenue, Inverness.

## DRAGONAID

A must for all Dragon owners. Full of useful information, peeks and pokes. Make your programs unlistable/unstopable etc. Also includes many machine code utilities including Keeybeep, Autorun Easymerge plus much more!

**DRAGONAID IS AVAILABLE NOW AN**

**IS ONLY £2.00**

including postage from

JOHN BUCKLEY 31 COWPER HOUSE

KERSAL SALFORD LANC'S M70RU

## SOFTWARE

**MAKE MONEY** with your microcomputer. Helping companies, doctors, architects, etc...SAE free information folder. C.D.S. Marketing, (PCI), Bishopbriggs, GLASGOW, G64 1BR.

**AQUARIUS** (unexpanded) can play

real music. Full instructions, listings, demo cassette. £6. From: Edwards, 38 St. Stephens Close, London, E17. **COMMODORE 64** software to swap or sell. Including many titles. Contact A Gerard B.P. 116 Liege X Belgique.

## SPECTRUM CASH PLANNER

Monthly or block entries of up to 8 expense categories and 3 income categories.

Expense categories user definable. MICRODRIVE option included.

Very user friendly — tape £4.00 also VU-FI conversion to MICRODRIVE

Instruction sheet £1.50

**BELLESOF**

9 BEECHLANDS PARK, SEAHILL, HOLLYWOOD, CO DOWN, BT18 0DR

**MAKE MONEY.** Sell computer games, no capital outlay. Details from C. G. Computers, 42A Briarcliffe Road, Burnley, Lancs. BB10 1XB. Tel: 0282 59603.

**HOME ACCOUNTS.** Put your house in order! Probably home computers best use! Comprehensive coverage of bank accounts, credit cards, HP. Inbuilt accuracy check. Records all transactions. Protects cashflow for any period ahead. Available for CBM64 or Vic 20.

£7.50 or free details from R. B. Computer Services (Dept CA), 2 Hazelwood, Windmill Hill, Brixham, Devon. Tel: 080 45-55532.

**BBC MODEL-B OWNERS.** Are you interested in receiving free software?

ring Chris (0332) 515454 evenings after 7.30pm and weekends.

## CLUBS

Vic-20 Software Hire

100 titles from 50p per week.

Free Membership.

SAE for your membership kit to:

VSH (PCW), 242 Ransom Road,

Mappertley, Nottingham.

**SPECTRUM/ORIC/ATMOS** software library. Fast service, very latest tapes. SAE for details. Hire-soft 113 Broomfield Road, Marsh, Huddersfield.

**SPECTRUM LIBRARY** free hire two tapes two weeks hire £1.00. Send £4.00

life membership "Softbypost" 49 Stratton Street, Wolverhampton.

## BBC/DRAGON SOFTWARE LIBRARY

Why buy tapes when you can hire up to 7 for the same price. Membership fee £5.

Tapes £1 + 23p p&p. Catalogue growing. Write: E. Tucker,

8 Springfield Estate,

Grimston Rd, St. Woolton,

King's Lynn, Norfolk

**SOFTOPTION** The Spectrum software swapshop. Cassettes exchanged for just £1.00. Send SAE. Softoption, 8 Wyre Street, Ashton, Preston, Lancs. PR2 2RQ.

## EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

**EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE** for 48K Spectrum. GCE, O/CE physics. 6 programs £6.50. Chemistry 6 programs £6.50; or both tapes £12. Thinktank, 35 Wellington Road, Wimbledon Park, London SW19 8EQ.

**ANIMATED MUSICAL** Flashcard and spelling program for CBM 64 developed in collaboration with school and educational psychologist. Suitable 1½-7 years. Cassette £4.50. Disc £7. From: Toddlersoft, 1 Catlane, Ewelme, Oxon OX9 6HX.

**48K SPECTRUM** owners 'O'-Level G.C.E., C.S.E., maths test gives your children private tuition for only £3.99. Nursoft (Dept P.C.W.) 95 Gorton Rd, Northolt, Middx, UB5 4ST.

## ACCESSORIES

### BBC

**VOLUME CONTROL**

At last variable sound control UP/DOWN or OFF.

Instructions and kit £2.80 inclusive

Other machines SAE details

**RACEY DESIGNS**

47, Twyrosse Rd

Burbage, Leics LE10 25

## BLANK CASSETTES

C10 length £3.65 for 10

£28 for 100 inc. p&p

fully guaranteed.

**UK Home Computers**

82 Churchward Avenue, Swindon, Wilts

**DUST COVERS** — Protect your investment. We produce made to measure top quality dust covers. Printers, disc drives, keyboards £4.50, VDU £5.50. Colours olive or navy. S & C Textiles, 4 Brookside, Diseworth, Derby. Tel. 0332 810099.

**PROFESSIONAL CASSETTE CASES** Used by better software houses. Store your programs in our 8" x 6" library cases. Cassette and booklet holders inside, clear external pocket. Only £1.25 each, 10 for £10, free postage. Cheque/PO to S.D.C., 8/21 Bishop Wilton, York.

**SPECTRUM TIMESAVER.** No more pulling out leads on save and load.

£4.87. K Gibson, 44 Highlands Road, Horsham, Sussex. RH13 5LU.

**I/O** for your Spectrum. 4 port 64 bit.

Price £49.95. For details please send SAE to Future Electronic services, 55 Eastcote Avenue, South Harrow, Middx.

## SERVICES

**ZX81 & SPECTRUM REPAIRS**

**ADD ON SPECIALISTS**

**MOST COMPUTER COMPONENTS**

**SPECTRUM REPAIRS £15**

● 24 Hour postal service or

While-You-Wait

● Keyboard with spacebar —

£46.00

● Open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon-Sat

MANCOMP LTD.

Printworks Lane, Levenshulme

Manchester M19 3JP

Tel: 061-224 1888

**DATA DUPLICATION**

**M.G. Copies, Burntwood Walsall**

**West Midlands WS7 0ES**

High speed dedicated data duplication, printing if required. Prices from 28, 57p (C15) per cassette incl library case.

Write for your full price list or telephone Burntwood 75375 (24 Hrs).

**SINCLAIR REPAIRS.** Fast reliable service by qualified engineers. Prices include p&p. Spectrum £15, ZX81 £12. Cheque or PO to RA Electronics, 50 Kimberley Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0TZ. Tel: 0502 66289.

## MICRO-SERV

The home computer repair specialist in Scotland

**BBC, SPECTRUM, VIC 20 AND ALL PERIPHERALS. 3 MONTH WARRANTY ON ALL REPAIRS.**

**UNIT 4, Denny Workspace,**

**Denny, Scotland, FK6 6DW.**

**Tel: Denny (0324) 823468**

**REPAIRS — ZX81 — SPECTRUM** out-of-guarantee repairs by our computer dept. Engineers have had three years experience servicing Sinclair computer products. Price including p+p

ZX81 — £11.50; 16K Ram — £9.95; Spectrum — £18.75. Send with cheque or P.O. to: TV Service of Cambridge Ltd., French's Road, Cambridge CB3

3NP. Tel: (0223) 311371.

**IMPORTANT!** Have you written a program but don't know how to sell it? Top software houses listen to us, so let us try to sell them your programs? For professional advice, copyright registration, critical appraisal and a better chance of success send S.A.E. for full details to B.C.M. Topsoft, London WC1N 3XX. **ZX SPECTRUM** Erom programming service. Send 2764/27128 Eroms. Code on tape and £6.00. Alan Turnbull, 65 Vicarage Road Stockport, SK3 8HL. **SPECTRUM REPAIRS.** £14 including parts p&p etc. ZX81 £11. Rampack £10. Fast reliable service by qualified computer engineers. 0772 643897. **SEE** Simon Stable's special spring duplicating offer! C1-C15 from only 28p. Write or phone him today 086925 2831.

## DUPLICATION

**CASSETTE** duplication services for computer cassette copying, highest quality, fast turnaround. Giveaway prices. We are the best! Tel: C.D.S. (021) 557 4941 (1pm-3pm of 8pm-10pm).

**PROFESSIONAL CASSETTE CASES** Used by better software houses. Store your programs in our 8" x 6" library cases. Cassette and booklet holders inside, clear external pocket. Only £1.25 each, 10 for £10, free postage. Cheque/PO to S.D.C., 8/21 Bishop Wilton, York.

**COMPUTER PROGRAMS** REAL-TIME or (Slow) HIGH SPEED Professional Cassette Duplication and Blanks from 1 to 1,000+. Computer printed Cassette Labels, etc. Fast Security Delivery service. **Is records — a division of FILTERBOND LTD, 19 Sadlers Way, Hertford SG14 2DZ.** 0952 — 551188

Dear Reader, my name is Simon Stable, I specialise in real-time data-duplication for most cassette based micros. Disc copying for BBC 4080 (protection available) Dot-matrix printed labels/ blanks. Blank cassettes.

**FAST TURNOVER 0869 252831 COMPETITIVE PRICES** P.L. FREEPOST, 48 WESTERN, LAMTON, OXON OX1 0TZ

## COURSES

### HOLIDAY COURSES FOR CHILDREN

**NOW BOOKING**

(£45 for 5 mornings)

(Adult courses as usual)

Ring: Computer Workshop

on 01-318 5488.

4, Lee High Road,

Lewisham, London SE13 5LQ

## THIS SPACE FOR SALE

**£15**

**TELEPHONE:**

**PCW CLASSIFIED**

**01-437 4343 Ext 206**

## FOR HIRE

**COMPUTER VID.** Unique rent a tape service from £1 a week. If you like the game we take a rental fee off the cost of the game. £5 life membership. Available for popular computers. Write to: 278A Wightman Road, Hornsey N8.

Tel: 340 4074.

**HIRE A COMPUTER** from ZX81 upwards for a week or a year. We also buy and sell second-hand computers, magazines and books. Business and Computer Services, 294a Caledonian Road, London N1 1BA. Tel: 01-607 0157.

**REPAIRS — ZX81 — SPECTRUM** out-of-guarantee repairs by our computer dept. Engineers have had three years experience servicing Sinclair computer products. Price including p+p

ZX81 — £11.50; 16K Ram — £9.95; Spectrum — £18.75. Send with cheque or P.O. to: TV Service of Cambridge Ltd., French's Road, Cambridge CB3

3NP. Tel: (0223) 311371.



# JOIN THE SUCCESS STORY

A major international publishing group is looking for high quality software. If you have developed programs for the best-selling micros and want them published worldwide by a prestigious and reliable organisation, join the success story - contact us now.

## MACMILLAN SOFTWARE

Get in touch with: **Tony Feldman**  
Macmillan Publishing Group  
4, Little Essex Street  
London WC2R 3LF  
01-836 6633



### WINDSCREEN MOTIFS



### BOOKS

**BODY — POPPING**, break dancing. All styles of disco. Teach yourself. SAE for details. Dance Publications, 136 Monkhill Lane, Pontefract WF8 1RT.

### MAGAZINES



#### DRAGON USER

To make the most of your Dragon you need **Dragon User** — the independent magazine for Dragon owners. To make sure that you receive a copy of Dragon User regularly subscribe direct to us. A year's subscription costs £10 for 12 issues (overseas rates available on application). Send a cheque or postal order made payable to Dragon user, and accompanied by your name and address, to Dragon User, Subscription Department, Oakfield House, Perryman Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex RH16 3DH.

### WANTED

AGENTS, free lance required, to sell home computer software: (1) London

and south of England, (2) Scotland and north of England, apply in writing to: 'Dollarsort' 3, Everard Glade, Bradley, Sheffield S17 4NG.

### WANTED:

Software for Spectrum 48K, Commodore 64 and VIC20, and Atari.

Also, Spectrum 16K/48K and Commodore 64 computers wanted.

**Newell Data Service,**  
114 Fortress Road,  
London NW5 2HL  
Tel: 01-267 9037

**SINCLAIR Q.L.  
WANTED  
PREMIUM PRICE  
PAID  
CONTACT TREVOR ON  
(0892) 39606 (DAY)**

**PUBLISHER WANTED**  
A self-employed computer science graduate is writing **GAMES AND UTILITY** programs for popular micros. He **URGENTLY** requires a publisher to publish and market his software products. Cash offer for each program will also be considered. For details contact:  
Mr Farhang-Mehr, on 01-354 1584

### WANTED YOUR SOFTWARE

**WHITESOFT** will pay top royalties for good software for VIC 20, CBM 64 and SPECTRUM. We want original games; arcade and adventure, utilities and educational programs. Send your programs, or for more information, contact:

**WHITESOFT  
OLD MILL FARM  
BLACKWATER,  
NEWPORT,  
Isle of Wight  
Tel: 0983 528763**

**WILL PAY UP TO  
£225 FOR BBC 'B'  
£135 FOR COMMODORE '64  
£65 FOR ZX SPECTRUM 48K  
£100 FOR DRAGON 64K  
£100 FOR ATARI 800 XL 64K  
TEL: 01 435 8538**

### WANTED

#### ECCE PRODUCTIONS

are expanding their software list. We urgently need good and original software for the BBC Micro and Spectrum. We are mainly looking for utilities and business programmes but we will consider good games programmes. Highest royalties available so send your software to:

Stuart McKears,  
ECCE Productions,  
3/73, Station Road,  
Sidcup,  
Kent,  
DA15 7DR.  
01 302-1667

### SUNSHINE

is seeking authors for new titles to add to its highly original and successful book range. Experienced and first time authors are invited to submit manuscripts, ideas or fields of interest. Full details of what we can offer from David Lawrence, Book Editor, Sunshine, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

Sunshine: Publishers of Popular Computing and Dragon User

### HARDWARE

#### SPECTRUM 48K

with Interface 2

**£125.00**

#### COMMODORE 64

with C2N Cassette

**£202.50**

#### ORIC 48K

135 games from £1.90

Instant credit available  
**NEWELL DATA SERVICE**

114 Fortress Road, London  
NW5 2HL. Tel: 01-267 9037

#### Replica Blank

Firing Colt 45  
Automatic. As used by US army,  
ideal stage prop with ammo. £5.25  
carriage 50p

#### Replica 44 Auto

Magnum,  
the gangsters favourite with  
ammo £4.35 carriage 50p

#### Colt Python 357.

As used by police and  
screen heavies.  
With ammo. £4.45.  
Carriage 50p.

Ideal for video film making. Mail order only.  
Send cheques or PO to: Razzamattaz, 80  
Selhurst New Road, London SE25



## COMPUTER SWAP

Computer Swap entries are limited to 30 words. Either fill in the accompanying form and send to Computer Swap, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD or telephone 01-437 4343.

All software offered through computer swap must be in original condition and for private sale only.

**Warning:** It is illegal to advertise pirated software.

## COMPUTER SWAP

Please write your copy in capital letters on the lines below.


Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....



## FOR SALE

**COMMODORE 64**, cassette, Arrow & Simons Basic. Programmers Guide. Various books. Commodore 801 printer, all few months old. Exchange Osborne with printer. Tel: 01-539-1844 8.30am to 5pm.

**COMMODORE PRINTER MPS 801**. Hardly used, ten months guarantee. Ideal first printer, some paper included. £195 ono. High Wycombe 35240.

**VIC20 + CASSETTE** unit, 16K switchable Ram pack, cassette games, 4 cartridges, books and magazines. Quick sale, £175 ono, also VIC1525 printer inc. paper £165 ono or all for £330. Everything boxed! Tel (0642) 564368.

**COMMODORE 64** business software + games on disc to exchange or sell. Phone 0827 53922. Also wanted, business programs to buy.

**SPECTRUM 48K** with microdrive, printer, micronet attachments + many tapes, mags, books, excellent value £200. Phone 01-402 9537 after 7pm. **COMMODORE VIC 20** (with box) £75, 8K 3 slot Motherboard £30, Programmer's aid £20, 10 cartridges £3 each. 26 original cassettes £3 each, Soft Switch £10. For details phone Eddie 0442 833820.

**TANDY TRS 80** computer 64K disc drive. Visicalc, word processor. Many books. Suit enthusiast or businessman working from home. £445 ono Crowborough 61252 evenings.

**VIC 20 C2N Joystick 1GK Ram**. Over £170 Software: 17 cassettes 4 cartridges maths O level revision tape. Books and magazines etc. ono Tel: Leeds (0532) 756637 any time.

**BBC MODEL B**, manuals, software, books, magazines. £300. Tel: 0422 44036.

## Computer Swap 01-437 4343

Free readers entries to buy or sell a computer.  
Ring 01-437 4343 and give us the details.

## For sale

**SHARP PC1211** pocket computer plus cassette interface and printer £40.00 01-550 8965 Mr Goodwin after 7pm.

**FOR SALE** an untouched Androids tape only £3, first come, first served, send money to — Church Farm House, Bredfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 6AX, my name is James Giller.

**ELECTRON SOFTWARE** for sale. Twin Kingdom Valley, Missile Control, Mined-Out, Cybertron, Moonbase Alpha, Birds Of Prey. All £6.00. S.A.E. and cheque PO to S.N. Naik House 80, Room 4, Manchester M6 6DB.

**FOR SALE** Sharp Mz80K with Basic plus Basic extensions and assembly language. Manuals and textbooks £280 ono. Tel: Birmingham (021) 355 1908

**FOR SALE:** my collection of 130 games programs (listings) for the Spectrum. £7.50. Tel: Stevenage (0438) 811634 evenings.

**ORIC E48K** 6 months old — £100 of s/w 2 program books £175 ono. Tel: Orpington 29067 anytime.

**PRISAL DTX 500** (modern) Spectrum £75. Tel: 01 961 4255.

**SHARP MZ80A** 48K assembler/dis-assembler 2 Basics + games. Hardly used £325 for quick sale. Tel: Goole 861384.

## Diary

Event	Venue	Dates	Admission	Organisers
Apple 84	Fulcrum Centre Slough	May 24-25 10.30am-5.30pm May 26 10.30am-4.30pm	£2.00 on door (free tickets in advance from organisers)	Database Publications, 68 Chester Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport 061-456 8383
North Wales Computer Fair	Memorial Hall Boddyhyd Wrexham	May 26 10.00am-4.00pm	50p adults 25p children £1.00 family ticket	Wrexham & District Computer Club
Cetex (Consumer Electronics Trade Exhibition) (Trade only)	Earls Court	May 27-30 10.00am-7.00pm	Free	Montbuild Ltd 11 Manchester Sq London W1 01-486 1951
Software 84 (Trade only)	Earls Court London SW5	June 5-7 10.00am-6.00pm	£2.00 on door (free tickets in advance)	Reed Exhibitions Surrey House Throwley Way Sutton Surrey 01-643 8040
5th International Commodore Computer Show	Novotel Hammersmith, London	June 7-8 10.00am-6.00pm June 9 9.00am-5.00pm	£2.00 adults £1.00 children £3.00 family ticket	Granard Communications, Surrey House, London SW1 01-930 6711
The Computer Fair	Hall D Earls Court London	June 14 10.00am-6.00pm (trade and press only) June 15-16 10.00am-6.00pm June 17 10.00am-5.00pm	£3.00 adults £2.00 children & OAPs	Reed Exhibitions, Surrey House, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey 01-643 8040

**TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 994A** complete with colour monitor, cassette recorder £200 of T.I. module s/w inc: Extended Basic, new £450 + will sell for £200.00. Tel: 061 301 2518 (day) 061 797 4702 (eves) (Mr Clynes).

**Sharp PC1251** + C125 cassette printer interface. £95 ono. Tel: (0257) 481 706. **EDTASM** + assembler cartridge for Tandy colour computer. 2 months old. Includes user guide. £25. Cost £40. Telephone (0632) 761031 after 6pm. Bolton 28291 after 5.30pm.

**PRISM VTX 5000** modem for Spectrum. Little used. £70. Tel: 0920 2623 (Ware)

**FOR SALE** 20 top selling 16 and 48K games for the Spectrum. Top names like Ultimate, Protek, Imagine, Melbourne, Quicksilver and many more. Worth £125 sell for £65. Studley 3720. **NASCOM 1**, 48K Ram B, Eprom board, 8K Basic, extended Basic tape, enhanced Basic tape, Nascom mags, software — Keys of Kraal, Backgammon etc. in steel case. Tel: Chippenham 657861.

**FOR SALE**, solutions to Scott Adams Adventure cartridges, £1. Send money to Martin Wright, Alma, Cilcennin, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales SA48 8RH, with name, address and solution required. Tel: 0570 470362.

**STONKERS**, Mr. Wimpy, Jumbly, Death Chase, Pinball Wizard, Thrusta, Speed Duel, River Rescue, Brain Damage, Rommel's Revenge, Traxx, Push Off etc for sale. Phone 061 881 3651 Tony

**CB FIDELITY 2000** and all accessories. Sell for £50. Or will swap for hardware for CBM 64, and games will pay for originals. Tel: 01-958 8643.

**ORIC 48K CASSETTES** for sale. Chess, Zodiac, Oric Flight, £3 each or 3 for £8. 4 Loraine House, Acre Lane, Wallington, Surrey SM6 7NX.

## 25,000 \*HUSTLER PLAYERS CAN'T BE WRONG!!

Don't miss the full range of magical programs for your Commodore

Available from:  
W. H. SMITH, LASKYS, LIGHTNING DEALERS, SPECTRUM SHOPS, GREENS, HMV SHOPS, GAMES WORKSHOPS, CENTRESOFT and PCS STOCKISTS and all Good Dealers.

\*HUSTLER is a realistic Pool simulation.

or direct from:



## bubble bus software

87 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1RX  
Telephone: 0732 355962

## HOME COMPUTER CENTRE

HUGE SELECTION OF GAMES, BUSINESS AND EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE, AND ACCESSORIES. FOR: SPECTRUM, BBC, DRAGON, VIC 20, COMMODORE 64 MACHINES, JOYSTICKS, TAPE RECORDERS, INTERFACES AND COVERS. SERVICE AND REPAIRS. (MAIL ORDER OR CALL IN), SELECTION OF BOOKS, KEYBOARDS, LEADS.

SAE FOR LIST

Largest selection in N. London

## ENFIELD COMMUNICATIONS

135 HIGH STREET, PONDER'S END, ENFIELD, MDDX.

Tel: 01-805 7772





# TITANIC

*The Adventure Begins...*

With Currah Micro Speech

FREE on Side 2  
a mini-epic in high energy rock  
TITANIC (The music)



FOR 48K SPECTRUM

R&R Software Ltd, 5 Russell Street, Gloucester GL1 1NE. Tel: 0452 502819

NOW AVAILABLE  
ONLY £7.95

## SPECIAL OFFER

VIC 20 starter pack **£139 inc.**

(subject to availability)

CBM 64 **£185 inc.**

QUICKSHOT II JOYSTICK **£9.50**  
*limited offer*

**SPECTRUM UPGRADE (16K to 48K) £29 fitted**

WIDE RANGE OF SOFTWARE, BOOKS, JOYSTICKS — ALSO  
FAST REPAIR SERVICE FOR MOST POPULAR COMPUTERS.

## SOFT TOUCH OF LONDON

12 DARTMOUTH PARK HILL  
LONDON NW5

TEL: 01-263 3842

THE SOFTWARE LENDING AND EXCHANGE LIBRARY  
SPECTRUM, COMMODORE 64, DRAGON, VIC 20, BBC & ZX81

YES! We have programs for your computer.  
We hire programs from 50p. (ZX81). Two weeks.

£5.00 LIFE MEMBERSHIP (Less than the cost of a single game)  
brings you our membership kit, including hire listings, software  
exchange catalogue and introductory letter.

We now have OVER 300 HIRE TITLES, and 500 EXCHANGE  
TITLES, with large Spectrum and Commodore sections.  
All mail dealt with on a daily basis and OVERSEAS MEMBERS  
VERY WELCOME

New software discounted to our members at impressive rates.  
Send cheque/PO for 5.00 to:

The Software Lending Library,  
PO Box 3, CASTLEFORD,  
WEST YORKSHIRE. WF10 1UX

Stating name, address and computer type.  
FORGET THE REST AND JOIN THE BEST!



## MAIL ORDER ONLY

FREE DELIVERY ON ALL SOFTWARE

### BBC

	RRP	Our Price
Chuckie Egg (A&F)	7.95	6.80
747 (Doctor Soft)	8.95	6.95
Legion (S.Projects)	7.95	6.80
Killer Gorilla (M. Power)	7.95	6.80
Penguin (Postern)	6.95	5.90

### CBM 64

	RRP	Our Price
Manic Miner (S.Projects)	7.95	6.80
Hunchback (Ocean)	6.90	5.75
Mr Wimpy (Ocean)	6.90	5.75
Ught (Softrek)	7.95	6.80
Bugaboo (Quicksilva)	6.95	5.90

### SPECTRUM

	RRP	Our Price
Jet Set Willy (S.Projects)	5.95	4.70
H.U.R.G. (Melbourne)	14.95	11.90
Sherlock Holmes (Melbourne)	14.95	11.90
Lunar Jetman (Ultimate)	5.50	4.45
Hunchback (Ocean)	6.90	5.45

### DRAGON

	RRP	Our Price
Up Periscope (Beyond)	6.95	5.75
Dragon Chess (Casis)	9.95	8.45
Chuckie Egg (A&F)	7.95	6.80
Space Shuttle (Microdeal)	8.00	6.85
Devil Assault (Microdeal)	8.00	6.85

Send Cheque/PO to

N. A. SOFTWARE, PO Box 21, Worsley, MANCHESTER M20 6LB

For details of SPECIAL OFFERS and EXCELLENT DISCOUNTS on Software for BBC, CBM, Dragon, Spectrum, Electron, Oric, Vic 20, ZX81. SAE for price lists. (State Micro)

## POPULAR COMPUTING WEEKLY — the top-selling weekly microcomputer magazine — is looking for a SOFTWARE EDITOR

Somebody bright and enthusiastic is needed who will help maintain the high standard of software coverage in the magazine — both in the listings we print and in the commercial packages reviewed.

Some editorial or production experience would be an advantage, as would a knowledge of programming. More important though is the ability to work within the tight schedules of a successful weekly paper.

Popular Computing Weekly is one of a number of titles produced by Sunshine — a rapidly expanding young publishing house based in Central London.

Applications in writing please to: David Kelly, News Editor, Popular Computing Weekly, 12/13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.





## PLAY ON

Buffer Micro is to be congratulated for releasing a program which is long overdue — a music utility that utilises the various add-on sound devices now available for the Spectrum.

These peripherals almost all use the same sound chip and consequently only minor alterations are needed to use the program with Fuller sound box, Zon, Zxm etc.

Make Music allows you to use all three channels provided by the sound chip to create and store tunes and play them using



the keyboard. I suspect that in many ways the facilities on this program do not do full justice to all that's possible with the sound add-ons but nevertheless, a most welcome release.

<b>Program</b>	Make Music
<b>Price</b>	£5.95
<b>Micro</b>	Spectrum (+sound add-on)
<b>Supplier</b>	Buffer Micro 310 Streatham High Road London SW16 6HG

## SUPERIOR

Some of the better Dragon games have come from J Morrison Micros — although *Mission XK1* worried me from the first time I set eyes on the instructions 'Landing on large pad 50 points, middle pad 100 points' etc etc — this could only mean one thing (chill wind of realisation blows through the

Popular citadel): *Lunar Lander!*

And *Lunar Lander* it proved to be, albeit with some extra features like a band of meteors that block the ascent and descent of the ship.

So along with the left a bit, right a bit on the retros, you blast away at meteors hoping that the fuel doesn't run out. Original it's not, but it is all in machine code and graphically it is much superior to most Dragon games.

<b>Program</b>	Mission XK1
<b>Price</b>	£6.95
<b>Micro</b>	Dragon
<b>Supplier</b>	J Morrison (Micros) 2 Glensdale Street Leeds LS9 9JJ

## ABOVE AVERAGE

Cricket buffs and players can now keep records of Cricket information on *Cricket Averages* by South Coast software.

The program, which is basically a database, will store information on individual and team performance to be retrieved in a variety of ways — alphabetically, by scores, by catches, etc.

The program, which is apparently actually used by Vic Isaacs of Hampshire County Cricket club, can also be saved to Microdrive for quick updating.

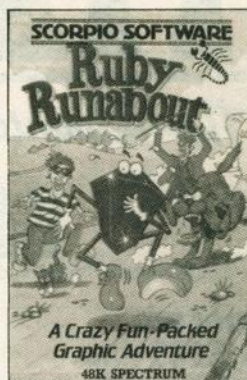
<b>Program</b>	Cricket Averages
<b>Price</b>	£4.95
<b>Micro</b>	Spectrum/BBC B/Electron
<b>Supplier</b>	South Coast 1 High Walk Fareham Hants PO15 6BS

## IT'S A GEM

*Ruby Runabout* is a graphic adventure for the 48K Spectrum from a new company, Scorpio software.

It is not going to break any technical frontiers but is still pretty good fun in the *Knight's Quest* mould of difficult puzzles with neat little illustrations of some of the locations.

Less noble than some previous adventures, you are the appallingly named Reggie the



Ruby Robber and your quest objective is the steal the Rock-salmon Ruby and stash it away in your garage hideout.

There are forty locations to explore and the whole thing is fairly jokey although not easy to solve. The program can understand the usual range of verb noun combinations — probably good fun for novices.

<b>Program</b>	Ruby Runabout
<b>Price</b>	£6.95
<b>Micro</b>	Spectrum
<b>Supplier</b>	Scorpio Software 11 Fennel Street Manchester M4 3DU

## BOUNCING

*Jet Power Jack* is a multi screen arcade game for the BBC from Program Power — one of the most highly respected houses in the BBC field.

Despite the name the game has little in common with the similar sounding *Ultimate game*. Jack (is Jet Power his Christian name?) has to refuel various waiting starships.

To get the requisite fuel pods he must cross various dangerous garages chock full of assorted nasty bouncing, jumping, lurking and zooming bad-dies.

There is a time limit in the form of Jack's dwindling oxygen supply and additional problems such as Jack's Turbo-pac which behaves somewhat erratically. Colourful and addictive, with great graphics.

<b>Program</b>	Jet Power Jack
----------------	----------------

<b>Price</b>	£7.95
<b>Micro</b>	BBCB
<b>Supplier</b>	Micro Power Northwood House North Street Leeds LS7 2AA

## SHUFFLER

Bridge programs are emerging from the woodwork — presumably because I said there weren't many of them a few weeks back. Oh well.

*Contract Bridge* is for the Atmos and seems to have the same features as other versions on the market — the computer bids, shuffles, deals and plays out its hand.

<b>Program</b>	Contract Bridge
<b>Price</b>	£5.00
<b>Micro</b>	Atmos
<b>Supplier</b>	Touchstone 61 Highfield Road Saxilby Lincoln

## CABBAGES

*Revenge of the Killer Tomatoes* is an arcade game presumably inspired by the classic film *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes* which featured the amazing couplet: 'how I'm gonna miss her, a tomato ate my sister'.

The idea of the game is to avoid rows of cabbages and roving vegetables whilst trying to remove stray weeds. Colliding with cabbages merely loses you points but touching other vegetables results in instant destruction.

There are, inevitably for a Spectrum game, sprite





# New Releases

graphics and even good sound effects and on the whole the game is quite fun — ridiculously simple though, and I would take the blurb on the back which says 32 on-screen sprites with a pinch of salt — most of them seem to be cabbages.

**Program** *Revenge of the Killer Tomatoes*  
**Price** £5.95  
**Micro** *Spectrum*  
**Supplier** *Visions*  
*1 Felgate Mews*  
*Stundland Street*  
*London W6 9JT*

## COMMITMENT

Magra has been pretty angry for a long time now but at last her wrath can be engaged to the full — *The Wrath of Magra* has been released.

To call it Epic is not enough; for £14.95 you get 120K of program and around 200 pages of book, plus some game notes in a neat little booklet. The booklet opens with the classic

understatement 'hope you get many hours of enjoyment'. Hours? — We're talking about years here.

*Wrath of Magra* is going to need commitment; the 200 page book sets various scenes to the action and explains why it is that you, lone adventurer, must set out your vast journey to kill the witch Magra and release princess Edora from eternal incarceration.

After a few pages I found the sub Tolkien style of the book a bit trying but full marks to Carnell for trying to bring a sense of atmosphere to the game — an often unappreciated but important ingredient to adventures.

The game itself...well, something bad first — response times are slow and simple commands take ages to be acted out — as I say you'll need commitment not to start throwing things at the computer.

On the other hand playing Magra is like playing almost every other adventure at once; not only are there amazingly difficult conundrums and puzzles,

but there are illustrations of every location, complex sentence analysis, a large vocabulary, various considerations affecting your combat, ability to cast spells, tiredness, hunger etc etc.

Some sections feature hi-res monsters others enable you to buy and sell goods, sometimes you will need a map, mostly you will need a lot of help. If, generally speaking, you like Tolkien, Dungeons and Dragons, hard text adventures and marijuana you will go gaga over the *Wrath of Magra* — the rest of us will think it's pretty good too.

**Program** *The Wrath of Magra*  
**Price** £12.50  
**Micro** *Spectrum*  
**Supplier** *Carnell Software*  
*North Weylands*  
*Industrial Estate*  
*Molesey Road*  
*Hersham*  
*Surrey KT12 3PL*

## IN THE GROTO

One consonant does not a different game make and whichever way you look at it, *Skramble* is *Scramble*.

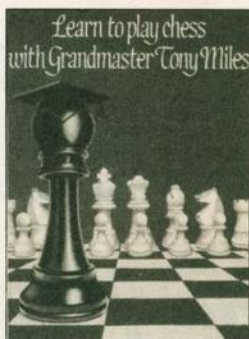
*Scramble* was a very popular arcade game in which you piloted a ship through ever narrowing caverns past a variety of baddies through to an enemy base dozens of screens and thousands of failed attempts later. *Skramble* is exactly the same and is for the Commodore 64.

However, the game has the great virtue of being a very addictive concept to begin with, and by adding Commodore 64 graphics and sound to it you can hardly go wrong. Credit too, for selling the program at £5.99 which is at least a pound cheaper than the norm for such Commodore programs.

**Program** *Skramble*  
**Price** £5.99  
**Micro** *Commodore 64*  
**Supplier** *Rabbit Software*  
*The Warren*  
*Unit 11*  
*Forward Drive*  
*Wealdstone*  
*Middlesex HA3*  
*8NU*

## IN DEPTH

*Chess Master* is a suite of programs designed to teach you Chess. Although Sinclair themselves have published something similar this is an



altogether more substantial package.

*Chess Master* consists of one program tape containing a variety of Chess positions and two Commentary tapes in which Chess Grandmaster Tony Miles talks you over what moves you should make and why.

The discussions are fairly detailed with the roles of the main fighting pieces analysed in great depth. It's a bit cumbersome having to switch about from commentary tapes to program tapes and vice versa but if you are a chess novice and you stick with it, I think this package could be very useful indeed.

**Program** *Chessmaster*  
**Price** £15.95  
**Micro** *Spectrum*  
**Supplier** *Serin Software*  
*PO Box 163*  
*Slough*  
*SL2 3YV*

New Releases is designed to let people know what software is coming on to the market. If you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to: New Releases, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, WC2R 3LD.

## Pick of the week

## WILD AND WOOLLY

A new Llamasoft game can always be sure of an extensive evaluation in the PCW office and *Sheep in Space*, for the Commodore 64 had a longer evaluation than most.

The objective of the game is to defend the planet (using a flying sheep) against various energy stealing aliens. The baddies can obliterate the planet by building up charge on the giant planet busters. Should a planet get destroyed then the sheep must venture out into space and kill off baddies in vengeance.

The sheep is equipped (aside from the ability to fly) with glowing bonios which wipe out all they come into contact with. Problems occur because the screen features two grounds — one at the top of the screen and another at the bottom — thus two separate gravities work on your bonios pulling them both upwards and downwards depending on where you are (if you see what I mean).

From time to time, the sheep

will get hungry and will need to graze this involves landing it on a green field — have you ever tried to land a sheep? Obviously it's wonderful — any game with flying sheep in it would have to be.



**Program** *Sheep in Space*  
**Price** £7.50  
**Micro** *Commodore 64*  
**Supplier** *Llamasoft*  
*49 Mount Pleasant*  
*Hants RG26 68N*



## BBC\*

- 1 (1) Aviator (Acomsoft)
- 2 (2) Spooks and Spiders (Software Invasion)
- 3 (3) Snooker (Visions)
- 4 (4) Battle Tank (Superior)
- 5 (5) Fortress (Pace)
- 6 (6) Blagger (Alligata)
- 7 (7) Football Manager (Addictive Games)
- 8 (8) FORTH (Acomsoft)
- 9 (9) JCB Digger (Acomsoft)
- 10 (10) French (Acomsoft)

\*All model B  
(Figures compiled by Micro Management, Ipswich (0473) 59181)

## Vic 20

- 1 (-) Wizard and the Princess (Melbourne House)
- 2 (2) Submarine Commander (Thorn EM)
- 3 (-) Duckshoot (Mastertronic)
- 4 (7) Snooker (Visions)
- 5 (6) Tower of Evil (Thorn-EMI)
- 6 (4) Tank Commander (Thorn-EMI)
- 7 (1) Krazy Kong (Interceptor)
- 8 (3) Megalactic Llamas (Liamasoft)
- 9 (5) Jet Pac (Ultimate)
- 10 (10) Mine Madness (Thorn-EMI)

Figures compiled by Boots/Websters

## Commodore 64

- 1 (1) Manic Miner (Software Projects)
- 2 (-) Practicle (Marketing Micro)\*
- 3 (-) Inventory 64 (Marketing Micro)\*
- 4 (-) Practicle (Marketing Micro)
- 5 (6) Space Pilot (Anirog)
- 6 (6) Black Hawk (Thorn-EMI)
- 7 (-) BMX Racers (Mastertronic)
- 8 (5) Pedro (Imagine)
- 9 (-) Space Walk (Mastertronic)
- 10 (-) Practicle (Marketing Micro)

\*Disc  
Figures compiled by Boots/Websters

## Dragon

- 1 (-) Chuckle Egg (A&F)
- 2 (-) Hungry Horace (Melbourne House)
- 3 (-) Eightball (Microdeal)
- 4 (3) Ugh! (Softelc)
- 5 (9) Up Periscope! (Beyond)
- 6 (9) Pedro (Imagine)
- 7 (2) Kriegspiel (Beyond)
- 8 (-) Froggie (Microdeal)
- 9 (7) Space Shuttle Simulator (Microdeal)
- 10 (-) Cuthbert in Space (Microdeal)

Figures compiled by Boots/Webster

## Spectrum\*

- 1 (2) Jet Set Willy (Software Projects)
- 2 (1) Atic Atac (Ultimate)
- 3 (3) Chequered Flag (Pision)
- 4 (5) Hunchback (Ocean)
- 5 (6) Flight Simulation (Pision)
- 6 (4) Scuba Dive (Durrell)
- 7 (7) Pogo (Ocean)
- 8 (9) Cyrus IS Chess (Intelligent)\*
- 9 (8) Lunar Jetman (Ultimate)
- 10 (-) Alchemist (Imagine)

\*All 48K except where noted. † 16K.  
(Figures compiled by WH Smith and Son, London)

## ZX81\*

- 1 (1) Krazy Kong (PSS)
- 2 (-) Fantasy Games (Pision)
- 3 (3) Mothership (Softsync)
- 4 (7) Flight Simulation (Pision)
- 5 (2) Scramble (Quicksilver)
- 6 (4) Chess (Pision)
- 7 (-) 1K Chess (Artic†)
- 8 (5) Space Raiders (Quicksilver)
- 9 (8) Defender (Carnell)
- 10 (-) Black Crystal (Quicksilver)
- 10 (-) Invaders (Quicksilver)
- 10 (-) Vu-file (Pision)

\*All 16K except where indicated  
Three titles tied for 10th position  
Figures compiled by Boots/Websters

## Books

- 1 (-) Spectrum Hardware Manual, Dickens (Melbourne House)
- 2 (-) 60 Games and Applications for the ZX Spectrum, Harwood (Interface)
- 3 (-) Spectrum ROM Disassembly, Logan (Melbourne House)
- 4 (-) Spectrum Machine Code, Stewart and Jones (Shiva)
- 5 (2) Commodore 64 Games Book, Bishop (Granada)
- 6 (1) Creepy Computer Games, Erskine et al. (Osborne)
- 7 (-) 100 Programs for the Spectrum, McClean and Gordon (Prentice Hall)
- 8 (-) 60 Programs for the Sinclair Spectrum, Erskine et al. (Pan)
- 9 (10) 60 Programs for the Vic 20, Erskine et al. (Pan)
- 10 (-) Spectrum Book of Games, James and Gee (Granada)

Figures compiled by Bookwise

## MAGIC

A neat looking book for younger children is *Spectrum Magic* from Foulsham. It is intended for the complete beginner starting off with leads and where to plug them and moving step by step to fairly full basic programming.

The book is well designed with clear pictures and diagrams and large unequivocal type. For really basic information I think it is one of the best such books I have seen.

**Book** *Spectrum Magic*  
**Price** £4.95  
**Micro** *Spectrum*  
**Supplier** *W Foulsham & Co*  
*Yeovil Road*  
*Slough*  
*Berkshire*  
*SL1 4JH*

popular micro and whilst the whole thing may not appeal to more earnest adventurers, kids will love it.

**Book** *Write your own Adventures*  
**Price** £4.50  
**Micro** *General*  
**Supplier** *Usborne Publishing*  
*20 Garrick Street*  
*London WC2E*  
*9BJ*

## COMMANDS

In the same way that there are quite a few people who bought books on the Spectrum Microdrive without having seen one, so some people will be interested in the *IBM PCjr Buyer and User Guide*.

It's actually a very good book detailing the peripherals, commands, keyboard, interfacing, use of disc drive, Basic, publications, etc, for the IBM machine. It's the kind of information that is very useful to have all in one place and it could actually be worth buying even if you are only (when it becomes available) thinking of buying the Jr.

**Book** *IBM PCjr Buyer and User Guide*  
**Price** £8.95  
**Micro** *IBM PCjr*  
**Supplier** *Prentice/Hall*  
*66 Wood Lane End*  
*Hemel Hempstead*  
*Herts HP2 4RG*

## HAUNTED

*Write your own Adventure Programs* is a glossy hardback book that retails for a mere £4.50. Like many similar books, it takes you through the main elements involved in Adventure writing by actually developing an adventure called *Haunted House*.

The listings for the adventure are annotated so that the adventure can be run on any

# This Week

Programme	Type	Micro	Price	Supplier
Staircase Stampede	Arc	BBC	£7.50	Comsoft
Castle Assault	Arc	BBC B	£5.70	MRM
Childs Play	Ed	BBC B	£5.95	Dial
Childsplay	Ed	BBC B	£9.95	Polarsoft
Darts	Arc	BBC B	£5.70	MRM
Monsters & Magic	Ad	BBC B	£6.95	ISP
Screwball	Arc	BBC B	£5.70	MRM
Spellwell	Ed	BBC B	£5.95	Bial
Attack on Windscale	Ad	Commodore 64	£9.95	Phoenix
Bath Time	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	PSS
House of Asher	Arc	Commodore 64	£6.95	Anirog
Ice Hunter	Arc	Commodore 64	£6.95	Anirog
Petch	Arc	Commodore 64	£6.95	Anirog
Pinball Wizard	Arc	Commodore 64	£6.95	CP
Spider and the Fly	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.00	Interceptor
The Electron Game	S	Commodore 64	£1.99	Mastertronic
Wallie goes to Rhymeland	S	Commodore 64	£7.00	Interceptor
Chemistry Test One	Ed	Dragon	£1.80	P.A. Perris
Chess II	S	Oric	£9.99	Tansoft
Airbase Invaders	Arc	Spectrum	£5.95	CP
Antics	Arc	Spectrum	£6.95	Bug Byte
Character Designer	Ut	Spectrum	£8.95	ISP
Computer Cook Book	Ut	Spectrum	£9.95	Bug Byte
Friendly Face	Ut	Spectrum	£6.95	Monitor

Hover + Panic	Arc	Spectrum	£6.00	Dollarsoft
Lords of Midnight	Ad	Spectrum	£9.99	Beyond
Manor of Madness	Spec	Spectrum	£5.95	Celtic
Message from Andromeda	Ad	Spectrum	£7.00	Interceptor
Multifile	Ut	Spectrum	£9.95	ISP
Operation Roman Gaul	Ad	Spectrum	£5.50	Specsoft
Screen Machine	Ut	Spectrum	£8.95	ISP
Spectrum Sprites	Ut	Spectrum	£7.95	ISP
Tank Attack	Arc	Spectrum	£1.99	Mastertronic
The inferno	Ad	Spectrum	£6.50	Richard Shepherd
The Pit	Arc	Vic 20	£7.00	Interceptor
Climber	Arc	ZX81	£3.95	Unicom

Key: Ad — adventure/Arc — arcade/Ed — education/  
S — strategy-simulation/Ut — utility

This Week is a new section that covers all the new software coming on to the home micro market each week. All suppliers should send details of their new programs to: This Week, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.





## What is Life?

I had a twinge of nostalgia when *Life* was mentioned again in a recent *Popular Computing Weekly*. Several national debts' worth of computer time must have been wasted by this "solitaire game", quite a bit of it by me — I still have smug memories of running it in Fortran at the Oxford University Nuclear Physics Dept and the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, to name but two. Younger computer addicts, though, may be gaping blankly and asking the very philosophical question, "What is Life?"

It was invented in the late sixties by John Horton Conway, the celebrated Cambridge mathematician; the *Life* boom got under way when Martin Gardner made it the subject of a 1970 "Mathematical Games" column in *Scientific American*. More columns followed; and now at last the revised and expanded facts of *Life* are available in Gardner's latest excellent collection of his own columns. *Wheels, Life and Other Mathematical Amusements* is published by W. H. Freeman & Co at £13.95, contains 19 other pieces besides the three on *Life*, and is strongly recommended to seekers after truth. This publication puts an end to the need to ferret through dusty heaps of old magazines...

*Life* isn't a game in the usual sense; Conway himself has called it a no-player game. The idea is enticingly simple. You have a big two-dimensional array like an infinite chessboard; each square is called a cell, and touches eight others (if you don't believe me, get out your infinite chessboard and count). To begin with, each cell is either full or empty — the starting pattern is up to you. Then the rules of *Life* take over.

If a full cell has two or three full cells touching it, it survives to the next "generation". A full cell

dies from exposure if none or only one of the touching cells is full — it also dies from overcrowding if more than three of the touching cells are full. Either way, it becomes an empty cell for the next generation. Finally birth happens in an empty cell when it has exactly three full cells touching it, in which case (you guessed) the empty cell becomes full.

A nice example is a row of three full cells. In the next generation, the two end cells die of exposure, but at the same time there are two births on either side of the centre cell — a horizontal row of three becomes a vertical one. This pattern is called a blinker; it oscillates forever from horizontal to vertical and back again, as the generations go by.

Sounds trivial and boring? The interesting thing is that Conway's simple rules can generate bogglingly complex patterns from humble beginnings. Watching them change generation by generation on the computer display, you can see movement, evolution, even savage conflict. There are *Life* patterns which crawl about the array, or gobble other patterns with feral cries and revolting table manners. Gardner's book has a useful catalogue of the simpler *Life*-forms.

People who watch the movement and evolution of *Life* patterns can get funny ideas, such as that maybe the laws of our universe could at root be as simple and arbitrary as Conway's. Could a *Life* configuration be intelligent? SF author Piers Anthony had a go at this question in his (alas, not very good) book *OX*, to the confusion of readers not familiar with the game. Conway and others asked a less cosmic but more answerable question: could a *Life* pattern function as the next best thing to intelligence, ie a universal computer?

The answer is yes. A chapter in *Winning Ways* by Berlekamp, Conway and Guy (Academic Press; very expensive) shows how to construct a computer using the simplest moving *Life* patterns as bits: a computer capable of any mathematical task.

As a "thought experiment", this bursts the brain with the information that absolutely any mathematical problem can be reduced to the question of whether a particular *Life* pattern will or won't eventually vanish completely from the array.

So, next time you see someone gawping at peculiar patterns writhing and changing on their ZX81 monitor, do not scoff. It could just be a serious mathematical quest for the answer to *Life*, the universe and everything.

David Langford

## That's my number!

### Puzzle No 108

There was a great deal of celebration (including much bopping about) when the eleven members of the syndicate found that they had won just over a million dollars in the national lottery.

Naturally, there was extensive press coverage, with pictures of the group showering themselves with champagne and it was remarked that the sum on the cheque — in dollars and cents — contained no two digits alike.



Also, curiously, when the money was shared out equally there was an exact division.

How much was the total prize money?

### Solution to Puzzle No 103

The program tests all possible four-digit numbers to see which has a reverse exactly four times as large. As this number has to be less than 833, only these numbers need to be tested.

```
10 FOR N = 1 TO 833
20 LET NS = STRS(N)
30 IF N < 10 THEN LET NS = "0000" + NS
40 IF N > 9 AND N < 100 THEN LET NS = "00" + NS
50 IF N > 99 AND N < 1000 THEN LET NS = "0" + NS
60 MS = ""
70 FOR F = 1 TO LEN(NS)
80 MS = MIDS(NS,F,1) + MS
90 NEXT F
100 IF VAL(NS)*12 = VAL(MS) THEN PRINT NS,MS
110 NEXT N
```

This gives the only possible result: 0495\*12 = 5940. Cyndy still has to remember which number goes with which lock, though.

### Winner of Puzzle No 103

The winner is: Gary Henderson, Ambra Vale West, Clifton Wood, Bristol, who receives £10.

### Rules

If the puzzle can be sensibly solved using a computer then the winner will have included a listing of the program used to find the correct answer. The closing date for entries to Puzzle No 108 is June 8.

## The Hackers





# AUTOMATA

.... but seriously,

PIMANIA - the cult adventure that's for real!

16K ZX81 £5 ☐ BBC 32K £10 ☐ Dragon 32 £10 ☐ Spectrum 48K £10 ☐

GROUCHO -

Competition closes June 1st.

Winner announced on this page July 4th!!

PI-EYED - the comedy cartoon arcade game, starring the PiMan. Free protest disco record.

Spectrum 48K £6 ☐

PI-BALLED - A triumph of the arcade programmer's art.

Starring the PiMan. Free offensive Reggae music.

Spectrum 48K £6 ☐

MORRIS MEETS THE BIKERS - exciting arcade fun,

as seen on TV. Outrageous free doo-wop record.

Any Spectrum £6 ☐

YAKZEE - Bruddy wonderfurr game of ruck and skirr.

An oriental masterpiece for

Dragon 32 plus Spectrum 48K £5 ☐

GO TO JAIL - Play the game

find out what all the fuss is about, cookie.

Spectrum 48K £6 ☐

OLYMPIANIA - He's back! He's going for gold!

He's sober! Free National Anthem on the flipside.

Spectrum 48K £6 ☐

THE PIMAN'S GREATEST HITS - amazing stereo L.P. cassette £3 ☐

"I'M A PIMANIAC" - T-Shirts (state size) £5 ☐

JOIN THE PIMANIACS CLUB for 20% off all products, pi-monthly magazine etc. Annual Subscription £5 ☐ U.K. £7 ☐ overseas

I ENCLOSE THE RIGHT MONEY, OR DEBIT MY ACCESS/VISA CARD

CARD NUMBER .....

MY SIGNATURE .....

MY NAME .....

MY ADDRESS .....

POST CODE .....

NO EXTRAS! ALL OUR PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY AND V.A.T.

Send to: AUTOMATA U.K. LTD. 27 Highland Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO4 9DA

24-HOUR CREDIT CARD HOTLINE (0705) 735242





